Jordan welcomes Saudi remarks

AMMAN (R) — Jordan on Tuesday welcomed a Saudi statement backing the Middle East peace process, saying it would boost the Arab stand in peace negotiations with Israel. "We welcome the Saudi Arabian stand and the statement made by an authoritative Saudi source on the Kingdom's support for peace in the Middle East," Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said. Saudi Arabia issued a statement on Thursday in support of the current Middle East peace negotiations but there was no direct reference to Jordan which signed a declaration in July ending a 46-year state of belligerence with Israel. Dr. Anani said Riyadh had a vital role to play in the peace process due to its role as a regional power. He said the Saudi role will be more felt when discussing economic cooperation among Middle East states. "We see a variation in Saudi Arabia's regional role, and since it is a neighbour to Jordan, this provides a chance to support the position of the Arab negotiator."

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Rabin urges PLO to amend charter

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is urging the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to erase from its charter articles calling for the annihilation of Israel, a spokesman said Tuesday. "The PLO pledged to remove from its charter the paragraphs calling for the destruction of the state of Israel almost a year ago," Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben Ami told AFP. "We are beginning to feel it is taking too long and we insist that the PLO carries out this alteration," he added. "Rabin has raised this issue at each of his meetings with (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat. He highlighted it during their meeting last Wednesday" at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, said a member of his office, asking to remain anonymous. He said Mr. Arafat had promised to call a meeting soon of the Palestine National Council in the Gaza Strip. Any changes to the charter have to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the total council membership.

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Jordan, Israel sign trade deal for W. Bank market

$30m in private sector exports in 1994

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Israel on Tuesday initialled an agreement allowing Jordan to export $30 million worth of commodities to the occupied West Bank during this year.

The agreement was signed following two days of intensive bilateral negotiations at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel.

Fayez Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian negotiating team, said the agreement excludes the Palestinian self-rule territories.

"This agreement is initial under which terms the quantities of goods and the way of transporting them into the West Bank are defined," he said.

The accord is the first tangible sign of progress in five days of negotiations at the Dead Sea Hotel to hammer out issues on border demarcation and water, key items on the road towards a full peace treaty.

"We initialled it today (Tuesday)," Dr. Tarawneh told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said the agreement would have to be renegotiated early next year when Palestinian self-rule, now limited to the Gaza Strip and Jericho, would be extended to more of the occupied West Bank in line with the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deal.

Dr. Tarawneh said the success of the deal depended largely on the efforts of the Jordanian and Palestinian private sectors.

He did not specify the goods which Jordan would sell but they range from steel and other building materials to baby nappies.

Jordanian officials said Israel restricted the trade volume because it feared the cheaper Jordanian goods might find their way to its market.

Dr. Tarawneh said the security and borders committee meeting at the Dead Sea hotel had discussed intensively the issue of occupied Jordanian lands and the delineation of the border in accordance with the British mandate treaty of 1922.

He said it would take more time to define the occupied Jordanian lands in accordance with this treaty in view of the large areas of these lands extending along the borders in Wadi Araba area.

He said Jordan presented a briefing to the Israeli side on its view of all technical issues related to defining the occupied Jordanian lands.

He said the Israeli side would on Wednesday offer a similar briefing on its stand on the occupied Jordanian lands.

Dr. Tarawneh said Jordan had continued since 1967 to keep the bridges over the Jordan River open in the face of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank despite some demands by Arab sides to close them.

He said that Jordan considered these open bridges as the only outlet for Palestinians living under occupation and Jordan continued to import commodities from the West Bank although it could not export any Jordanian goods to the West Bank.

Dr. Tarawneh said West Bankers are eager for economic and commercial integration with the Jordanian people and voiced hope that the Palestinians would have full control over all Palestinian crossing points from and into Jordan.

"At this time one feels that it became a necessity to have trade relations with the West Bank since now we have reached something not included in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement defining commodities that can be imported from Jordan and Egypt, he said.

Dr. Tarawneh said this initial agreement does not constitute a challenge to any one

(Continued on page 7)

Crown Prince, Demirel discuss peace process

ISTANBUL (Petra) — Turkish President Suleiman Demirel on Tuesday received at the presidential palace in Istanbul His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a delegation accompanying him on a visit to Turkey.

Prince Hassan briefed Mr. Demirel on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordan's role in advancing it.

Prince Hassan expressed hope that Turkey would play an effective role in developing the Middle East region.

The Turkish president expressed his full support for the peace process and commended Jordan's role in it.

He also voiced appreciation for the King's en-

(Continued on page 7)

His Majesty King Hussein sees off His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon the Crown Prince's departure for Turkey on Tuesday (AFP photo)

Israel, Syria said to be discussing compromise deal

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israel would be willing to withdraw from part of the Golan Heights only in stages, measuring each pullback in exchange for accelerating gestures by Syria towards normal relations, Israeli diplomatic sources say.

The proposed agreement, being negotiated through secretary of State Warren Christopher, would be carried out over a span of years, not just months, as Syria had insisted from the outset, the sources said.

To facilitate the talks, which Mr. Christopher will resume next month, Israel is deferring for the time being its demand for totally normal relations with its longtime Arab adversary.

At the same time, Syria is soft-pedaling its insistence on complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the sources said.

Mr. Christopher has logged four rounds of shuttle diplomacy since May in an effort to bring Syria and Israel together on peace terms. They have not met face-to-face since February.

He has said the two sides are talking about substantive issues, but has declined to provide details.

Flying home last week after his latest effort, Mr. Christopher told reporters: "I do not feel I can report incremental progress on specific issues." He said he had left the parties with "a good deal for them to think about."

The sources, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, provided some of the missing details Monday, but with the same caution Mr. Christopher employs in predicting neither the outcome nor how long it may take.

Israel has proposed that in the first phase of the agreement its withdrawal would be small, while Syria would take sizeable steps towards normalising relations, the sources said.

Additional Israeli pullbacks would be linked to more moves by Syria towards normal relations with Israel.

Syria is not pressing Israel on full withdrawal. Israel, reciprocating, is not demanding total peace in its negotiations through Mr. Christopher, the Israeli diplomatic sources said.

Those are the two sides' ultimate objectives, but for the sake of progress they apparently are willing to shorten their goals.

Also deferred for the time being are the security measures to be adopted in the buffer zone as Israel moves back, the sources said. But any agreement would have to include some means of protection.

Mr. Christopher said Monday peace between Israel and all of its Arab neighbours, including Syria, is "entirely possible" by the end of 1996.

Mr. Christopher, was quoted in the New York Times as saying that the two sides have made great strides towards reaching a peace agreement.

"It would have seemed visionary but not at the pace at which things are going," Mr. Christopher said.

He stated that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad both want peace stressing that Israel is now accepted as a legitimate state in the region.

"Up to this last trip, there was a psychological barrier," Mr. Christopher said, adding: "I believe they've broken through, discussing the concrete elements, the natural of peace, withdrawal, security."

Mr. Christopher said Mr. Assad and Mr. Rabin were "the two tougest and most experienced negotiators in

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan not trying to bring Iraq into peace moves – Majali

DUBAI (R) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali was on Tuesday quoted as saying Jordan believed an Iraqi role was important for a comprehensive Middle East peace but Jordan was not trying to involve Baghdad in the process.

Asked by the United Arab Emirates' Al Khaleej newspaper in an interview about media reports that Jordan was trying to bring Iraq into multilateral peace negotiations with Israel, Dr. Majali said: "This is not on."

"But we believe that peace in the region will not be a comprehensive and lasting one without Iraq being a party to it. This is our personal belief," he told Al Khaleej.

"But will Iraq take part? This matter is up to it.

"We believe that Iraq is a main part of the Arab world so its presence for peace is necessary... we do not push others to take action if they don't do it themselves," he added.

Iraqi deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz held talks in Jordan on Sunday with Dr. Majali following the Kingdom's peace moves with Israel and Iraqis public disavowal of suggestions that Baghdad wanted to join the peace process.

Like other militant anti-Israeli states such as Iran, Libya and Sudan, Iraq has not been invited to join the multilateral negotiations spawned by the 1991 Madrid peace conference. Iraq has not shown any wish to join the talks.

The Aziz-Majali meeting came days after Iraq criticised

(Continued on page 7)

Majali: Ties with Syria are good

PRIME MINISTER Abdul Salam Majali said Tuesday Jordan's relations with Syria and the Palestinians were good and said Jordan was always ready to coordinate with Syria in the peace process.

In an interview with Egypt's Sawt Al Arab Radio, Dr. Majali denied that there was a political crisis between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He stressed Jordan's keenness that the Palestinians regain their full rights.

(Continued on page 7)

PLO presses crackdown; self-rule talks get ahead

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian police on Tuesday pursued four ringleaders of militant groups suspected of attacks on Israelis that could hamper the peace process.

Twelve people remained in custody after 35 were detained Monday in the first such police campaign since self-rule was established in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, said Palestinian officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The effort began after gunmen from Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, killed an Israeli and wounded six in drive-by shootings in the Strip Sunday. Four Israeli soldiers have also been killed in Gaza since self-rule began.

Israel says there have been 39 shootings, firebombs or other violence since the Palestinian police took over.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin threatened to delay any negotiated expansion of self-rule unless Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat cracks down on extremists.

In talks that continued Tuesday at the Erez crossing point into Gaza, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators discussed extending Palestinian control over tourism, taxation, education and social welfare as well as some security in the West Bank.

The hardline Islamic Jihad threatened to carry out "unprecedented" attacks unless the Palestinian authority frees the detainees.

"We demand that the Palestinian authority frees the imprisoned members of Hamas as soon as possible," the Jihad said in a statement sent to news agencies.

"Otherwise, we will be forced to step up our military operations in an unprecedented manner, inside the Gaza Strip," it added.

The statement did not make clear if the organisation would attack the Palestinian authority or the Israelis. Some 4,000 settlers live in the Palestinian self-rule strip, under Israeli army protection.

Three wanted men — Mohammad Abu Shamala, Hussam Abu Taha and Raed Al Attar — fled their homes in the Rafah refugee camp in the Strip's south before police raided them. Officers arrested two relatives and left behind orders for the wanted men to turn themselves in.

Israel Radio said a fourth fugitive, Kamal Abdul Aziz Ikhail, was threatening to blow himself up during any attempted arrest. He was accused of killing two Palestinians as suspected Israeli informants in May.

Palestinian sources said the men were believed hiding in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp and police raided homes and checked cars in the area. Several hundred people marched in the town of Deir Al Balah to protest the arrests.

Hamas supporters in the town reacted angrily on Tuesday to the Palestinian police campaign.

Graffiti on the walls of police headquarters read: "It is better to arrest collaborators than the honourable fighters against Israel" and "the arrest of the honourable fighters is to appease Rabin and his soldiers."

Mohammad Abu Taha, 28, a television repairman, complained about being interrogated by Palestinian agents over the whereabouts of his brother Ghazi, a Hamas fighter.

"The Palestinian intelligence is treating us the same as the Israeli occupiers," he said. "If the Palestinian authority continues in arresting us, it will lose credibility."

Mr. Arafat planned to meet with Hamas leaders in coming days, sources in his office said.

Although Hamas leaders publicly declare a wish to cooperate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in building an independent

(Continued on page 7)

Cocky, defiant Carlos arraigned in France

PARIS (Agencies) — A chained but cocky Carlos the Jackal bantered with France's top terrorism judge Tuesday while being arraigned on charges he engineered a deadly bombing in Paris.

The Venezuelan-born Carlos, 44, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, is accused of being a gun-for-hire for a variety of groups and eluded Western intelligence agencies for 20 years until his recent arrest in Sudan (see page 2).

The bombing in Paris was among the lesser of the crimes attributed to Carlos, who says his multinational career has left at least 83 people dead.

A day after being secretly flown to Fance, Carlos was escorted into a closed hearing at the Palais de Justice by five policemen carrying assault rifles and wearing bulletproof vests. Chains stood out against his white pants, beige sweater and brown slip-on shoes.

Witnesses said he casually talked with his guards about guns and then bantered defiantly with Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere, France's renowned judge of terrorism cases who travels with a bodyguard and carries a concealed pistol.

"Ah, here's the judge, how's it going?" Carlos said to Mr. Bruguiere at the entrance to the judge's chambers.

"And you?" Mr. Bruguiere replied.

"Still alive, for a long time to come," answered Carlos, whose death had been rumoured numerous times in recent years. Then, to his escorts, he added, "This guy, he's a star."

As he was in court awaiting the judge, Carlos compared notes with his gendarme escorts on their weapons.

"We also had Famas (the army-issue assault rifle) in Lebanon, they are good," he said.

Initially assigned three court-appointed attorneys, Carlos took on noted defence lawyer Jacques Verges, who has defended numerous controversial personalities in France, including Magdalena Kopp, a west German jailed in France who later married Carlos.

Carlos was charged with masterminding a 1982 bombing just off Paris' Champs Elysees that killed a pregnant woman and injured 63 people.

He will be charged later by a panel of judges with shooting to death two counterintelligence agents in 1975. The two were among a group of agents from the DST, France's domestic intelligence agency, who showed up at a Left Bank apartment to investigate attacks on Israel's El Al airline at a Paris airport.

Carlos was sentenced in absentia to life in prison for those murders.

Sudan informed France Sunday that Carlos was in custody and offered to turn him over to French authorities, according to Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.

The leftist newspaper Liberation said Tuesday that in return, French intelligence had given the Sudanese government satellite photographs pinpointing positions of the Popular Army for the Liberation of South Sudan (APLS), an antigovernment organisation.

France also agreed to use its influence to allow Sudanese troops to pass through the central African Republic and attack the APLS from the south, Liberation said. The paper did not cite any sources.

Mr. Pasqua reponded on French radio Tuesday that France "gave nothing in exchange" for Carlos' extradition to Sudan.

But Carlos' other attorney, Mourad Oussedik, charged that Carlos had been "kidnapped" by the same Sudanese government that was supposedly protecting him.

"There was no extradition demand," Mr. Oussedik said on French radio. "It was a kidnapping following transactions between the French and Sudanese governments."

Sudanese agents "threw themselves on (Carlos), neutralised him, drugged him and

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Jordan braces for new era of peace: Royal Commission is harbinger of deeper change

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The formation this week of the Royal Commission For Reform and Modernisation (RCRM), though its mandate and legal status are still unclear, is the clearest sign yet that Jordan is embarking on an irreversible new course of change, which may also involve a change of government.

The change, according to officials and analysts, could be so deep that not only fundamental socio-economic structures could be altered but it might also entail unprecedented economic activity and even population movement inside the Kingdom.

"The change that the new Royal Commission will be preparing the country for could have been entrusted to the government," a senior official said. "The fact, however, that the government, as a body, was excluded from the effort means that the envisioned scope of eventual change extends beyond both the immediate goals of the new commission and the mandate of this Cabinet," the official who requested anonymity added.

"The fact that His Majesty King Hussein entrusted the Crown Prince, and not the government, with the formidable task of preparing Jordan for the post-peace era could mean one of two things," a seasoned analyst said. "It is either that the King would have liked personally to be involved in the effort, but chose to delegate authority to the Crown Prince; or the step means that there is an urgent sense of continuity about effecting the required change, which might easily outlast the mandate of Dr. Majali's government."

Various officials and parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times that the government of Abdul Salam Majali, which has braved its way through 14 months of difficult decisions, has accomplished its main task of bringing the Kingdom close to a peace treaty with Israel, and should now be ready to leave the controls to a new Cabinet able to weave its way through the intricacies of change.

"The Cabinet of Dr. Majali, as it was reconstructed over three reshuffles since its appointment in May, 1993, represented various sectors of society with an eye to take difficult decisions towards peace, elections and economic stability, like the sales tax," a Lower House member said.

"Now with the impending changes that are to affect the Kingdom in a profound way, a new government might be needed to take Jordan into a new era, on the international level, and at the same time look inwards and start making the necessary changes at home," the deputy said.

Well-informed sources expect that a new government will be appointed "soon." But speculation is still rife over how soon is "soon" with most officials expecting that it would have to be before the next regular session of Parliament.

Government sources are also divided over whether there will be a change of government, and if there is whether it will be by September or just before the resumption of Parliament's regular session.

A senior source, however, told the Jordan Times that a government change was not necessarily linked to the formation of the Royal Commission.

"Royal commissions have been formed before and they did not result in the removal of the government" in office at the time.

"Rumours of a government change are only speculations," the source said, adding that one should view the formation of the new commission as "an indication of His Majesty's commitment to introducing change that will prepare the country to meet the challenge of peacetime."

The senior source also pointed out that the work of the Commission, in the final analysis, will have to pass through its constitutional process which will include the government and at a later stage Parliament before it is institutionalised as new legislation.

But other senior officials disagree and maintain that the government has to prepare itself to leave "sooner than it thinks."

While these officials say that the timing of the Majali government's departure is not clear yet, "the whole political mood surrounding it is one of a government on its way out."

And these officials are careful to point out that the next government will also have a specific goal of "carrying us from the starting point of the peace agreement to the next stage in the socio-economic development of the country."

"The next government will be unique in that its single role will be to execute the decisions that are necessary in the times of change," one official said.

"One should not forget that this is a time when everything kin the country has to change in order to meet the challenge of peace," a Parliament source told the Jordan Times.

"We are moving from a state of war to one of peace and this is not an easy task," he added.

And since the leadership is intent on signalling the extent of its commitment to introducing change quickly, analysts thus expect that the choice of a new prime minister and Cabinet ministers will reflect this commitment, most probably by including more parliamentary representatives in it.

Barring a last-minute surprise choice, most officials expect that the new Cabinet will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister Thougan Hindawi, who is the only senior member in the government who was named to serve in the newly formed 12-member committee.

"The letter of appointment to the new government has to also include the elements of change that were spelled out in the King's letter to the Crown Prince," a senator who has held several cabinet posts during the past 20 years told the Jordan Times, adding that that would resolve the problem of the "mandate and legal status of the new commission."

Rival factions challenge Rabbani north of Kabul

DOSHI, Afghanistan (AFP) — The military jeep swerved to pass a huge, grey-painted steel tube with Russian markings that was buried deep in the side of the road — the empty casing of a deadly cluster bomb.

"The jet attacked us early this morning, and showered the hills up there behind Doshi," explained our escort, describing the release of scores of bomblets from this multiple warhead.

Doshi, a small district centre about 190 kilometres north of Kabul, was captured a month ago by a combined attacking force made up mainly of Uzbek fighters and militia from the Ismaelia religious sect.

Except for a few families, Doshi, once 20,000-strong, is now a ghost town. The civilians have fled and the shops are shuttered, though many show signs of having been looted.

Baba Khan, aged about 65, was seen supervising the loading of a truck with bundles of his family's belongings for evacuation north to district centre Pul-e-Khumri.

"What else can we do? There is nothing for us here except continuous rocket and jet bombardment," he told AFP.

An attack led by Sayyed Jaffar Naderi, youthful governor of Pul-e-Khumri and son of the Ismaelia spiritual leader, pushed Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani's defending troops about five kilometres back down the main road from Doshi, but the fight goes on.

Mr. Jaffar, 35, whose penchant for Western rock music equals his flair for the traditional Afghan sport of Buzkashi — a cross between football and wrestling played on horseback with a headless goat in place of a ball — vowed never to lose Doshi again.

"They will never take it back. Doshi is my home. I will fight for it to my death," Mr. Jaffar declared.

Besides its value as a strategic post on the main national highway connecting Kabul with the northern Afghan provinces, Doshi is important to Jaffar because it controls the entrance to the adjacent Kayan Valley, site of his ancestral home, where his father Sayyed Mansour Naderi still resides.

Mr. Jaffar's tanks guard the vital bridge which sits at the entrance to both Doshi and the Kayan Valley, but the bulk of his fighting force are on top of the surrounding mountains.

"In Afghanistan, in a fight, whoever controls the high ground will be the winner," asserts Mr. Jaffar.

He said the recapture of Doshi after four months of occupation by pro-Rabbani forces was achieved by an outflanking manoeuvre made possible by bulldozing a road to the top of the high peaks west of Doshi, then stationing tanks and heavy artillery there.

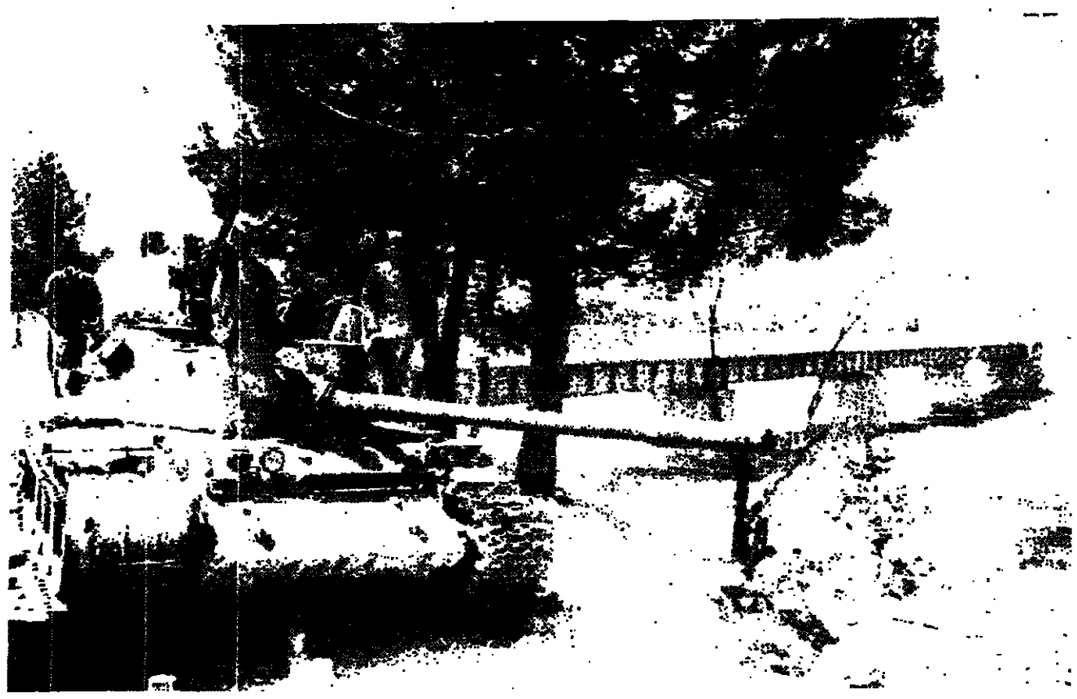
After a bitter fight of several more days, Doshi's bazaar fell.

Mr. Jaffar claimed to have captured 34 prisoners, four tanks, two armoured personnel carriers, many AK-47 assault rifles and more than 10 cannon and heavy machine-guns, which he has turned against their former operators. But the enemy still has plenty of landmines.

"Thirteen of my lads have lost legs to their mines, mostly Russian-made PMN blast mines," said Mr. Jaffar in protest of this method of warfare.

There will be no early end to the fighting in this region, as Mr. Jaffar vows to push on down the road from Doshi to the settlement of Khenjan, some 20-odd kilometres distant, which he also wants to regain from pro-Rabbani forces.

"What we want is the return of all our traditional places. Khenjan belongs to us. We will take this place back," the Ismaelia commander announced firmly.



Afghan Ismaelia religious faction fighters who captured the district centre of Doshi from government forces a month ago man one of their tanks at the Doshi bridge (AFP photo)

Perry: U.S. troops to Golan Heights possible

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Defence Secretary William Perry says if Syria and Israel reach a peace agreement requiring third-country forces, "the U.S. would be a candidate for sending troops to the Golan Heights."

On India and Pakistan, the secretary said their possession of nuclear weapons "is a matter of great concern." He acknowledged that "it's been very difficult" to convince those countries to give up their nuclear programmes.

Mr. Perry said the United States will continue to exert "coercive diplomacy" — the use of sanctions and the threat of force — in order to promote democracy in Haiti and prevent the flow of Haitian refugees to the United States, Mr. Perry said.

Qestion: What should we do about India and Pakistan, which now, along with the five major nuclear superpowers, possess nuclear weapons?

Answer: First of all, I don't want to affirm how many nuclear bombs or devices they may have. I certainly will concede that they have a nuclear programme, and it's a programme we're greatly concerned about. I just don't want to affirm the actual numbers of weapons they may have. It's a matter of great concern, and one of our principal objectives in dealing both with India and Pakistan is to get both of them to back off these programmes and agree to a non-nuclear southern Asia. It's been very difficult. We've made very little headway in that today.

Q: How do you prevent other states — like Libya, Algeria, Syria, North Korea, Iran and Iraq — from acquiring a nuclear capability?

A: We're doing that through — first of all, you cannot be sure of doing it, but we're doing it through a series of controls that slow down the access to technology. In the case of Iraq, we actually used military force to curtail their programme. In the case of Korea, we have a vigorous coercive diplomacy to try to get that programme stopped.

Q: Will there be American troops in the Golan Heights?

A: That's a possibility. We have supported this peace agreeement, and if the Syrians and the Israelis arrive at a peace agreement which requires third-country forces there, cerainly the U.S. would be a candidate for that.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Sudan says Carlos was planning new attacks

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's capture of Carlos the Jackal shows its opposition to extremism, officials said Monday, but they denied the man was turned over to France to improve Sudan's international image.

Sudanese officials said Carlos, one of the world's most wanted men, came to Khartoum to plan assaults on foreign targets in Sudan and that agents had him under surveillance even before France requested his arrest.

"It is part of our moral conviction to fight against this kind of activity," a government spokesman told the Associated Press in London. "The government of Sudan in doing this is fulfilling its obligations to the international community in fighting terrorism and fighting against terrorists."

Spokesman Abu Baker Al Shingieti rejected suggestions Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government turned Carlos over to France simply to shed the country's image as a sponsor of international attacks.

However, Sudan's justice minister, Abdul Azziz Shado, urged the United States on Monday to consider taking Sudan off a list of countries that sponsor "terrorism," Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported.

By labelling Sudan a sponsor of "terrorism" last August, Washington cut off most aid and made it hard for the impoverished country to get loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"Certainly the United States government is grateful to Sudan for their help in arranging this and the French government for their work on this," said White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers.

"It's something that the international community has been pursuing for nearly 20 years and I think is obviously a positive step."

But U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said the surrender of Carlos to France was "not sufficient to rescind the listing."

Carlos, a Venezuelan, has been named in connection with many attacks of the 1970s linked to the Middle East.

Born Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, he entered Sudan with a fake diplomatic passport from an Arab country, the interior minister, Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khier, said in a statement broadcast over state radio.

Mr. Khier said Carlos was part of a group planning attacks on foreign institutions so Sudan would be blamed for supporting international "terrorism." It was not clear why Carlos would seek to hurt Sudan.

Mr. Shingieti told the AP in London that Carlos and others were arrested "in the past few days" in Khartoum.

He refused to say how many other people were arrested, when they arrived in Sudan, where they were from, or whether they were still in Sudan.

The Egyptian news agency, reporting from Khartoum, quoted Mr. Shado as saying that Carlos had been in Sudan about six months.

Carlos' passport aroused the suspicion of Sudanese authorities when he arrived at Khartoum airport, Mr. Shingieti said, and he and his associates "were not conducting any kind of activity to justify their presence in Sudan."

The others went in and out of the country but Carlos stayed, Mr. Shingieti said.

"He made some international calls which were monitored by the security group, and that confirmed the suspicion over his intentions," Mr. Shingieti said.

While security agents were watching the group, France notified Sudan that Carlos had entered the country "with a false passport under a different name," Mr. Shingieti said.

Sudan also received an official request from Interpol, the international police agency, to hand Carlos over to France for killing two French citizens and seriously injuring three others, he said.

USIA adds: "We applaud the government of France for its resolute efforts to bring to justice one of the most notorious terrorists of the past years," Mr. McCurry said. "The arrest of Carlos serves notice to all terrorists that their crimes will not go unpunished or forgotten by the international community."

"We appreciate Sudan's actions," the spokesman said. "The international community would hope that the action by the Sudanese government marks the beginning of its efforts to distance itself from international terrorists."

Sudan was included on last year's U.S. list of countries that are state sponsors of terrorism, Mr. McCurry noted. "There is a range of activity that goes far beyond this case that caused that listing and there is no plan at present to rescind the terrorism listing of Sudan," he said.

The spokesman suggested that Sudan's actions in apprehending Carlos may suggest that authorities in Khartoum see some merit in the arguments of the international community that Sudan "should disassociate itself from terrorist activity."

"If they pursue this step now with further steps that would break the linkage between their tacit support of terrorist groups and their safe havening and sanctioning of terrorist activities within Sudan, that would be a welcome development," he said.

"The original listing of Sudan on the terrorism list referred more directly to the use of territory within Sudan as sanctuary for terrorist organisations, incuding Abu Nidal, Hizbollah and Palestine Islamic Jihad," Mr. McCurry said. "We also think there are other safe houses and facilities that terrorists have used with either the acquiescence or knowledge of Sudanese officials."

Demonstrations, fighting mark PKK anniversary

ANKARA (AP) — Police have detained scores of demonstrators, reports said Monday, as part of tightened security for the 10th anniversary of the start of the Kurdish guerrilla war for autonomy.

On Aug. 15, 1984, guerrillas came down from the mountains and raided a township and a military post in southeastern Turkey. Ten years later, the fighting rages on, currently claiming the lives of about a dozen or more people every day.

Turkish officials say the military, which has been waging a stepped up offensive this year, is finally gaining the upper hand. The Turkish troops have killed 2,600 guerrillas while the rebels have killed 1,100 people, including civilians and members of the security forces, since the beginning of the year, officials say. Rebels dispute the figures.

The fighting has claimed more than 13,000 lives since 1984.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has yet to make good on promises to grant some cultural rights to Kurds, such as permission for private broadcasting and education in the Kurdish language.

More than half of Turkey's 12 million Kurds live in the southeastern provinces.

The Turkish news agency Anatolia reported that about 50 people were detained for allegedly holding an illegal demonstration in the central Anatolian province of Konya last week. The agency said 35 demonstrators were detained in the southern city of Adana over the weekend. Both Konya and Adana have large Kurdish communities.

On the warfront, 11 guerrillas and three soldiers were killed in a clash in Hakkari province, Anatolia said Monday.

After a decade of fighting, the Kurdish problem has put Turkey in conflict with its Western allies, especially following the imprisonment this year of eight Kurdish members of parliament.

The lawmakers reject allegations of links with the guerrillas.

The guerrillas belong to PKK, the illegal Kurdish Labour Party, whose ranks have swelled from 300 to more than 3,000 in 10 years. The rebels say the PKK's ranks are even greater.

The PKK grew out of a small group of radical leftist Kurdish university students in Ankara in the 70s. After fighters were trained in guerrilla tactics in camps in Lebanon, they infiltrated into Turkey from northern Iraq.

Last year, PKK announced a one-sided ceasefire but later broke it.

The military's campaign drew criticism when an estimated 10,000 Kurds fled from Turkey to northern Iraq earlier this year to escape the fighting after reports of hundreds of villages being evacuated in the southeast. The government says the evacuations are carried out for the safety of the inhabitants.

Turkey maintains it is waging a legitimate fight against terrorism.

Guerrillas have carried out numerous massacres of entire families of state-paid village guards. The PKK has also claimed responsibility for several bombings in western part of the country, many of them in tourist sites in Istanbul and elsewhere.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Head of Syrian elite forces sacked

NICOSIA (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has sacked the head of his elite special forces, General Ali Haidar, informed sources said Monday. Mr. Assad replaced him with General Ali Habib, who headed Syrian units which fought in the U.S. international force which ejected Iraq from Kuwait in the Gulf war of January-February 1991, the sources said: Gen. Haidar was fired for insubordination after receiving several warnings and has been undergoing questioning since Aug. 3, the sources said, without giving details. There was no official confirmation available. The special forces are an elite formation of 10,000 to 15,000 shock troops. The sources said that the case had no political dimension as nobody had been involved with Gen. Haidar, whose interrogation was being supervised by the head of military intelligence, Gen. Ali Duba, a close ally of the president. Gen. Haidar played a leading role in the crushing of the Muslim fundamentalist uprising at Hama in February 1982 when more than 10,000 people are said to have been killed. He also fought the Israelis in Lebanon the same year. Gen. Haidar comes from the village of Hillat Ara, in the Alawi mountains. Like Mr. Assad, he joined the Baath party before going to the military academy. He was also one of the main rivals of Rifaat Al Assad, younger brother of the president, who tried to seize power in 1984. Gen. Haidar headed the special forces which prevented the younger Assad's forces from marching on Damascus.

Saudis outlaw cut-price phone call deals

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia on Monday outlawed cut-price international telephone calls made through companies abroad offering cheaper services. The Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephones, in a statement quoted by the Saudi Press Agency, said companies selling or promoting such services in the kingdom were breaking the law. It warned "those who use or promote such services that they will be punished and official measures will be taken against them, including cutting off their communications." The ministry statement targeted "companies selling illegal telephone services for international calls through the kingdom through subscription to foreign companies offering cheaper telephone services." It did not name the foreign companies but said local companies and agencies in the kingdom were "promoting such illegal services among clients of the ministry, notably banks and major corporations, by advertising their services in the local media." The statement said the ministry "will face this with necessary administrative measures in view of the illegal competition posed by such action, which infringes on the ministry's franchise and deprives it of certain revenues to the state illegally taken by these foreign companies."

Moroccan king invited to Libya celebrations

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco will be invited to attend the 25th anniversary of the overthrow of King Idriss Senoussi in a coup launched by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, a senior Libyan envoy said on Monday. Major Khouildi Al Hmidi, a member of Libya's Revolutionary Command Council, said on arrival at the airport he would deliver an invitation to the Moroccan monarch from Colonel Qadhafi to celebrations marking the 25th anniversary. A similar invitation was delivered by the envoy on Sunday to President Lamine Zeroual of Algeria. Algeria and Morocco are members of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) which unites them with Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia.

Ben Ali accepts invitation to Gaza

GAZA (R) — Tunisian President Zein Al Abdeen Ben Ali has accepted an invitation from Yasser Arafat to visit Palestinian self-rule areas but did not set a date, officials said on Monday. Tunis played host to Mr. Arafat during 10 years of exile after Israel forced Palestinian forces out of Beirut during its 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Immigration of ex-Soviets into Israel slows

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Immigration of Jews from the ex-Soviet Union into Israel fell by seven per cent in the first seven months of this year, Israeli officials said Monday. Around 33,860 immigrants from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) arrived in Israel before the end of July compared to 36,000 in the same period in 1993, according to the Jewish Agency in charge of receiving immigrants. Acting Agency President Yekhiel Leket said the fall was relatively small because of the agency's efforts to encourage immigrants from the CIS, especially children. Half a million ex-Soviet Union immigrants have settled in Israel since the wave of immigration began at the end of 1989. Some 25,000 of them have since left the Jewish state. The proportion of non-Jews among immigrants is rising every year and reached 30 per cent in 1993, according to Israel's interior ministry. Close relatives of Jews are allowed to settle in Israel under what is called the "law of return."

Millions returned to Iranian treasury

NICOSIA (AP) — In a rare admission of widespread official corruption that has been bleeding Iran's ailing economy, a leading Iranian legislator said Tuesday that millions of dollars in embezzled public funds had been recovered. The state-run Tehran Radio, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Ali Kamyar, head of the parliament's economic and finance committee, as saying his bureau's intervention had reclaimed more than $1 billion rials ($5.7 million) embezzled by officials. He gave no details. But official corruption is so rife in Iran that it has become part of the economic culture — although the country's clerical rulers have rarely acknowledged it exists.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ..... Tao Tao
17:30 ..... N.B.A. sport
18:30 ..... News in French
18:45 .... Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:00 ..... News in Hebrew
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 *Harry and The Hendersons*
21:10 ..... The Nature of Things
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 ..... The Nanny

PRAYER TIMES

04:32 ..... Fajr
05:56 ..... *(Sunrise) Duha*
12:40 ..... Dhuhr
16:19 ..... 'Asr
19:25 ..... Maghreb
20:49 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasancta Church Tel: 627366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot weather conditions will continue with winds northwesterly-light to moderate. Aqaba will be hot with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	24/38
Aqaba	22 /42
Deserts	20 / 40
Jordan Valley	27/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 40 Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195
Dr. Bassam Karadsheh 759200
Dr. Yahya Abdul Salam 736072
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 885880
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Ascna pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoujh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd 989000
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mnasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, 5Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
10:25 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 ..... Madrid (RJ)
17:35 ..... London (RJ)
18:25 ..... Istanbul (RJ)
18:25 ..... Paris (RJ)
19:10 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:25 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 ..... Rome (RJ)
19:55 ..... Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
00:40 ..... Beirut (RJ)
01:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:10 ..... Damascus (AZ)
11:25 ..... Larnaca (CY)
11:30 ..... Yemen (IY)
11:30 ..... Jeddah (SV)
13:05 ..... Cairo (MS)
13:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:05 ... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
15:20 ..... Algiers (AH)
18:25 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:00 ..... Aden (DY)
21:15 ..... Beirut (ME)
21:30 ..... Dubai (EK)
23:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:00 ..... Madrid (RJ)
10:30 ..... Rome (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:35 ..... Berlin, London (RJ)
12:00 ..... Tunis, Rome (RJ)
12:40 ..... Istanbul (RJ)
20:30 ..... Colombo (RJ)
20:35 ..... Beirut (RJ)
20:45 ..... Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
21:05 ..... Riyadh (RJ)
21:10 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
22:00 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:30 ..... Beirut, Paris (AF)
09:15 ..... Beirut (ME)
12:10 ..... Rome (AZ)
12:15 ..... Larnaca (CY)
12:30 ..... Yemen (IY)
13:00 ..... Jeddah (SV)
14:00 ..... Cairo (MS)
14:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (GF)
16:15 ... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
16:20 ..... Algiers, Sharqah (AH)
22:30 ..... Dubai (EK)
00:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman .... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	650/ 500
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammar)	620
Cabbage	110 / 60
Carrot	270/200
Cauliflower	200/ 120
Cucumbers (large)	180 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	360 / 280
Eggplant	180/ 100
Fig	450/ 350
Garlic	900/700
Grapes	260 / 180
Lemon	450 / 350
Marrow (large)	200 / 100
Marrow (small)	400 / 300
Mulukhiah	130/ 60
Okra	1100/ 900
Orange	500/ 300
Onion (dry)	260 / 180
Sweet Melon	180/ 100
Pepper (hot)	240 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	240 / 180
Potato	400/ 300
Peaches	900/ 650
Tomato	110/ 60
String beans	600/ 600
Watermelon	60 / 50

DIST. EDITORS PRESS SERVICE, INC.

Police wait to question double murder witness

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police are waiting to question a woman who witnessed the fatal shooting of a married couple in the Um Utheinah neighbourhood of Amman early Monday morning, police and court sources said Tuesday.

The witness, identified only as F.H., 64, was awakened by the sounds of gun shots around dawn Monday and surprised an assailant who had shot her son, Rushdi. H, 46, and his wife A.H.M, 34, while they were asleep, according to the authorities.

The assailant then shot the witness and escaped.

The witness is in critical condition and could not be questioned.

According to the medical report, the couple were shot several times.

"The witness received one bullet to the stomach but survived, while her son and his wife died minutes after the shooting," authorities told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

They said one of the couple's children also woke up after hearing the shooting, ran after the suspect and saw him take his father's car to flee the scene.

"The stolen vehicle was found the next day in Al Hashmieh area," the source said.

Preliminary investigations indicated that robbery was not the motive in this case, "because nothing was taken from the house."

"It seems that the assailant came for a particular purpose, because nothing was missing from the house," the source said.

He suggested that the crime may be financially motivated. He would not elaborate.

The case is being handled by Prosecutor General Mohammad Bishtawi.

The bodies of the deceased were transferred to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman. The witness is being treated at another hospital.

Shipping agents await formal U.N. green light for Lloyds

Verification regime expected to be launched Aug. 25

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA) is expecting the final approval for an agreement between Jordan and Lloyds Register of London under which all incoming and outgoing cargo would be observed at Aqaba port to check for violations of the international sanctions against Iraq.

A circular sent by the association to all shipowners and all other parties that deal with shipping to Aqaba said that under the agreement signed last month, Lloyds Register had set noontime Aug. 25 for the launching of the verification regime.

Lloyds Register has "taken all necessary steps to be operational by that time, with a full team in Aqaba," the association said in the circular.

"As the situation stands today it appears that the United Nations organisation is fully aware of the capability of Lloyds Register to undertake this job at the specified date," said the "tentative announcement."

However, the circular added, "we are now awaiting the final go-ahead, which is expected within the next few days."

"There is every reason to believe that the go-ahead will be positive, but (we) regret that we can only advise at this point in time that ships arriving at or after the said date/time will have to enter Aqaba gulf at their own risk as far as compliance with the guidelines in force governing stowage of cargo containers," it added.

Amin Kawar, chairman of the association, said the circular was being issued as a matter of routine of advice to all parties concerned with shipping to Aqaba and emphasised that it was "tentative."

"We are waiting for the U.N. approval which is expected to be in the form of "taking note of the transfer of off-shore inspections to a land-based verification regime," Mr. Kawar told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Kawar noted that such a tacit approval from the U.N. Sanctions Committee would be along the same lines that the panel issued in the context of approving Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan.

There was no formal decision issued by the Sanctions Committee explicitly stating that Jordan was allowed to import Iraqi oil, but the panel approved it in shrouded diplomatic language "taking note" of the overland trucking of Iraqi crude to Jordan.

Meanwhile, it was not immediately clear whether the American-led warships patrolling the Red Sea outside the Gulf of Aqaba to enforce the sanctions against Iraq by

Amin Kawar

inspecting all Jordan-bound vessels would leave the area immediately after the Lloyds Register presence takes effect.

In principle, diplomatic sources said, the frigates would stop hailing and intercepting Aqaba-bound vessels as of noon on Aug. 25. But they could still hang around to ensure that no violation of the sanctions take place.

According to Mr. Kawar many ships coming to Aqaba had to take an extra turnaround among Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Hodeida in Yemen and Port Sudan to comply with the guidelines and requirements laid down by the inspectors aboard the frigates enforcing the sanctions.

"The elimination of such a costly manoeuvre will contribute substantially to reducing freight for Aqaba-bound cargo," Mr. Kawar told the Jordan Times, noting that importers were paying $500 extra per 20-foot container and $1,000 per 40-foot container and $15 per tonne of general cargo demanded by shipowners to make up for the delay and diversion.

"Vessels will also be able to use full capacity since cargo accessibility for high-sea inspections will no longer be a requirement," he said.

Nighttime sailings will also be possible, Mr. Kawar said, referring to the practice of the inspectors to keep ships that arrive after sunset waiting overnight for inspections to begin the next morning.

Another expected change at Aqaba is the possible resumption of regular sailings to the port by shipping lines which suspended them in the face of the difficulties posed by the inspections, Mr. Kawar said.

However, he cautioned, "it will not be mean any boom in the flow of cargo through Aqaba."

"For such an improvement there has to be an easing if not the lifting of the international sanctions against Iraq," he said.

In any event, the presence of the warships are of little concern to Jordan since they are and will be patrolling areas outside the Kingdom's sovereign territory and waters, the diplomats noted.

Fuheisis feel slighted by governor's decision to form committee, excluding founders

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Fuheisis — men, women, and children — were enraged Monday night after hearing the last decision of Balqa' Governor Eid Qatameh to form a new higher committee of the Fuheis Festival without considering the original youth organisers who gave birth to the festival five years ago and who worked hard ot nurture it.

Three days ago, the Balqa' governor formed a new higher committee comprised of chiefs of police departments and representatives of the ministries of Finance and Culture, the Civil Defence Department (CDD), the mayor of Fuheis, and the Fuheis Youth Club (as committee secretary), in addition to other official bodies.

Fuheis residents are now waiting for the festival to close in order to take steps to undo the governor's measure, which they see as humiliating to them and their five-year volunteer efforts. Otherwise, they say, they will stop any other festival from taking place in Fuheis.

On Fuheisi senior citizen angrily said that if justice existed in the country, all Fuheisis and other Jordanian people would support each other to confront this decision by the governor.

"Why have all the young people who were working day and night to bring our festival to life been so ignored and so humiliated by their own governor," said the 64-year-old woman.

Muwaffaq Ziadat, a member at the Fuheis Youth Club, was mad describing how unfair the last decision was.

"There were 15 members in the Fuheis Club who spirited the festival five years ago. They worked hard at a time when the governor was resting at home. Now, and after festival became a distinguished activity, and after its income began to cover its expenses, the government wants to interfere, and to deprive us of the simplest rights, that is, to have a role in the acting committee."

"Why doesn't the government start a new festival... the first Salt festival or first Ramtha festival?" asked Ziad Sweis, one of the Fuheis Club members." Why are they planning to take away our Sixth Fuheis Festival? The reason is simple. They realised how successful this year's festival was and they hope to take their share out of its final income."

But Ramzi Madhain believes that the festival should be administered by a higher committee since it began to receive people from all Arab and foreign countries. "I am with the decision, but not with slighting the young people who introduced the Fuheis Festival to us for the first time," said Dr. Madhain.

Another club founder, Izzat Uqaili, was in doubt talking about the issue. He was not sure whether the decision would serve their activities or destroy them. "We are planning to confront their plans if they work to bury our festival, but we are not going to object if they will support us."

It has become a tradition that the Fuheis Folkloric Group performs during the finals of the festival and the people of Fuheis contribute as much as they can to the festival that night.

But, if the festival becomes the sole domain of the government, such a popular, family-like activity, say Fuheisis, may see its final curtain.

Anani briefs EU envoys on progress in peace talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for the Prime Ministry Affairs and Information Jawad Al Anani Tuesday received the ambassadors of the European Union (EU) member states in Jordan.

Discussion at the meeting focused on bilateral relations between Jordan and the EU countries and means of enhancing them in all fields.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the meeting, Dr. Anani said that he briefed the envoys on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations and outlined to them some economic issues of concern to Jordan and the EU.

He said Jordan is now seeking to reduce its foreign debts and added that some EU countries such as the United Kingdom have responded to Jordan's request in this regard.

He said he also discussed the issue of holding an economic conference in Casablanca, Morocco, in the future, saying Jordan will participate in the conference effectively and will offer papers on several economic projects that will need European financing and support in technical fields.

Dr. Anani said the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation, which was formed recently under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was entrusted as part of its duties to define laws that should be amended so as to create a proper investment climate in Jordan, provide job opportunities and develop the Kingdom's economic resources.

He said Jordan will present at the Casablanca conference several working papers dealing with the investment climate and related laws in the Kingdom.

The Casablanca conference, he said, might be a prelude to holding a more comprehensive conference in Amman next year.

The minister underlined the importance of the European role in the Middle East multilateral talks, especially in the economic working groups in the stage which will follow the peace process in terms of carrying out major projects in the fields of water, energy, railroad projects and others.

He said Jordan is now reconsidering changing the economic agreement with the EU to make it more comprehensive and to enable Jordan to benefit from the EU market more than before.

Also Tuesday Dr. Anani emphasised that the Jordanian economy will witness positive changes in light of the ongoing Middle East peace process and will be able to overcome problems that have faced it over the past few years.

In a lecture delivered at the Royal Police Academy, Dr. Anani said Jordan learned by experience that wars in the region and inter-Arab political rifts have contributed to a large extent to the decline in the performance of the Kingdom's economy and this was clearly manifested in the wars of 1948, 1967 and 1973.

He said after the end of the Iraqi-Iranian war in 1988, the Jordanian economy showed a tangible decline which has led to a drop in the purchasing power of the dinar and a per capita income.

In addition, Jordan was forced to halt several development projects in its five-year development plans, he said.

Jordan, said Dr. Anani, has relied during the past years on exporting qualified workforce abroad and the expatriates' remittances used to amount to more than JD1 billion annually, accounting for about 30 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

According to the minister, these revenues dropped drastically following the Gulf crisis.

Following the Gulf war, said Dr. Anani, Jordan started to adapt its economic conditions in a manner that would make it become as self-reliant as possible.

Jordan had c[illegible]d a long distance in thi[illegible] and its success in do[illegible] was linked to several bas[illegible]actors, the most impor[illegible] of which was raisin[illegible]dual productivity and developing the skills of Jordanian labourers to be able to improve the quality of products and make them competitive locally and abroad.

'Royal Institute of Interfaith Studies could prove unique'

By Ian Ataila
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Institute of Interfaith Studies, only one and a half months old, may prove to be a unique institute on the international level, according to one visiting European professor.

"What is singular about this religious institute is that its collaborators are not from one single faith. They are a mix of Christians and Muslims, and in the future maybe even Jews," Professor Albrecht Noth of Germany, who has written the introduction to the institute's first official publication, told the Jordan Times.

Moreover, he added, the Muslims and Christians on the staff of the new research institute were accomplishing something singular by "joining hands and working together to conduct serious, objective research in this field."

The modest location of the institute, a back-alley office building just off the Fourth Circle, seems to reflect the philosophies of its director, Prof. Kamal Salibi.

"I believe that small is beautiful — we want this to develop into a serious academic institute with high prestige and credibility worldwide, and we don't want publicity until our work begins to speak for itself," Prof. Salibi said.

He explained that the new institute had been born from a conviction held by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is the patron of the project.

Just as Islam has been the subject of academic study throughout the western world, the Crown Prince felt, so it was necessary for the Abrahamic faiths of Christianity and Judaism to be the subject of serious studies by academics in the Muslim World, "especially as we have Christians who live here in the Arab countries," Prof. Salibi said.

Although for now the institute will be devoted to studying the history of Islamic-Christian relations and Christian minorities living in the Islamic World, "we also hope to eventually include Judaism in our research and studies, if it becomes possible," said Prof. Salibi.

"Once again, the emphasis will be on the history of Jewish minorities in the Muslim World. It must not be forgotten, despite present circumstances, that Judaism enjoyed a golden age in the Middle Ages in Muslim Spain and Egypt."

Although the institute may develop a graduate programme for students at Al al Bayt University, Prof. Salibi stressed that for the present he was solely interested in focusing on a programme of research work through studies, publications and seminars.

The institute is already in the midst of publishing its first project, a concise history of Arab Christian communities of the Middle East with the introduction by Prof. Noth, and a library for researchers to use is in the stages of compilation.

The institute's field of work may inevitably bring it into the ever-emotional arena of turmoil and controversy which often surrounds interfaith relations and dialogues.

However, Prof. Salibi emphasised that he was determined to stick to the brass tacks of pure, workmanlike academics.

"We will not sit down and waste our time with frivolous questions, and we have no interest in getting involved in popular mythology," he said.

Prof. Noth wished his colleagues luck. "They have just begun, and whether this kind of research will be possible or not remains to be seen. Not just in the Middle East, but worldwide as well, the threat of interference is always present."

However, Prof. Noth believed that the new institute's non-denominational nature and mixed Christian-Muslim staff give it a vital asset which many such foundations lack.

"Everyone here wants to be objective," he said, "and they are not interested in conducting research to show that any one of the particular concerned religions is more true or valid than the others."

ESCWA sponsors poster competition

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an effort to focus attention on women's issues through artistic means, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is sponsoring a poster competition for the upcoming Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, according to an ESCWA announcement.

Open to young Arab women artists under the age of 35, the competition aims to come up with a poster that best embodies the themes and goals of the meeting by drawing on the artistic talents of Arab women, the announcement said.

Artists should focus on the theme of the meeting — "Peace for the Advancement of Arab Women" — when making their posters.

A United Nations committee will be formed to judge the posters, and the winning poster will be adopted as the poster for the Arab Regional Meeting.

The winning artists' name will appear on the poster, and she will receive a commemmorative plaque. Also at the meeting, an exhibition of the remaining posters will be held.

The Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women will take place in Amman from Nov. 6 to 10, 1994, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Jordanian National Committee for Women.

During the high-level segment of the meeting, the Regional Plan of Action for Arab Women will be adopted. It will then be submitted to the conference secretariat in New York, to serve as an input into the formulation of the draft Platform of Action for adoption at the Fourth World Conference for Women.

The conference, which will be held in Beijing in 1995, will review and appraise the advancement of women since 1985 in light of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies and will adopt a Platform of Action focusing on removing obstacles to the advancement of women.

Among the critical areas of concern to be addressed at the conference are: awareness-building, decision-making, literacy, health, employment, environment, poverty, violence, refugees, the effect of wars, and use of media.

The deadline for submission of drawings is Sept. 30, 1994. All submissions must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a recent photograph, according to ESCWA.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Indonesian President Suharto congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Suharto good health and happiness and the Indonesian people further progress and prosperity. In Jakarta, the Indonesian People's Assembly has welcomed progress achieved in the Middle East peace process, namely between Jordan and Israel. The house speaker voiced hope as he opened Tuesday's meeting of the assembly that progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track will herald a comprehensive peace in the whole of the Middle East.

Minister receives outgoing envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Tuesday received in his office Danish Ambassador to Jordan Christian Oldenburg on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in the Kingdom.

U.N. to add Jordan's troops to Rwanda force

THE UNITED NATIONS (Petra) — The United Nations Security Council has agreed to add troops from Jordan and other countries to the U.N. forces in Rwanda. The decision was taken in accordance with Security Council resolution 918 calling for increasing the number of U.N. peace keeping forces in the war-torn country. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has earlier this month proposed to the Security Council that the U.N. add to its forces troops from Jordan, Ethiopia, Australia, Sweden, Ireland Guinea-Bissau and the United Kingdom.

Schools books ready for distribution

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Ministry of Education's Curricula and Educational Technologies Department Ahmad Hiyasat Tuesday stressed that all school textbooks were distributed to all education departments around the Kingdom and that students will be able to obtain them by the start of the new scholastic year on Aug. 22. Dr. Hiyasat said the department is prepared to meet any shortage in textbooks, adding that all education departments have received five per cent more than their needs of textbooks. He said the Ministry of Education bears the high costs of printing textbooks and he urged students to take care of their books since they are going to be used by fellow students in the following scholastic year.

Out of Africa comes a gallery of traditional art

A wood carving, standing about 30 centimetres in height, on display at the Africana-Ivory Gallery

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Africana-Ivory Gallery Monday night was inaugurated here by Charge d'Affaires of the South African Embassy A. B. Greenham.

The gallery has on display unique pieces of African artistic products, including wood carvings, carved bridal chests, batiques, hand-made jewellery, soap stone carvings and hand-made traditional garments, baskets and carpets.

The high-quality handicrafts exhibited were mostly "made by African women and children from such countries as Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, and South Africa", gallery general manager Saleh Dabbakeh told the Jordan Times.

Africana-Ivory is an attempt to introduce beautiful Africa and its heritage to the people and foreign community of Jordan. People throughout the Arab World have in mind a stereotyped image of Africans as starving, desperate and helpless people, said Mr. Dabbakeh.

This idea does not reflect the reality of Africa's day-to-day life, he said. "Africans like other people are productive, hardworking and highly creative."

The display was an excellent representation of Africa. "I feel as if at home," Mr. Greenham told the Jordan Times.

"The exhibits are typical across the continent. I would like to encourage other people in Jordan and elsewhere to erase the misperception of Africa. The art is an excellent way to express the culture and history of one nation, and to exchange it with other cultures."

Serb military urges attacks

(Continued from page 12)

— said it would cut all ties with the separatists.

U.N. special envoy Yasushu Akashi came to Sarajevo Tuesday to demand an end to the mainly Muslim-Bosnian army's offensive against the rebel Serbs, which he said could undermine ongoing peace efforts.

He arrived as the aid airlift to Sarajevo resumed Tuesday, after the two sides promised to end attacks on U.N. planes and signed a new agreement banning snipers, who resumed deadly attacks on civilians after a break of several months.

"We expect progress step by step," Mr. Akashi said after talks with government officials. "Of course we would like to have rapid, radical progress but when that cannot be expected we want nevertheless to achieve small steps but in forward direction not backward."

Before entering meetings with Ejup Ganic, a member of the collective Bosnian presidency, and minister for U.N. relations Hasan Muratovic, Mr. Akashi told journalists the United Nations was "opposed to any offensive actions by any side" in the fighting.

"We are quite concerned (about the threat to peace efforts) and we are going to discuss the question of military stabilisation measures," he added.

The visit comes after two weeks of government army pressure on the separatist Serbs, supported by their new Croat allies in the Bosnian federation and Croatian forces from Zagreb.

Despite efforts to date by the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia, the Sarajevo government has so far not signalled an end to the operation which marks its first success for some time against Serb forces.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUHEIS FIFTH FESTIVAL

- ☆ Concert by Fuheis band at the main theatre, off the Greek Orthodox Convent at 21:00.
- ☆ Exhibition of Jordanian scripts, documents, and books.
- ☆ Abstract art paintings exhibition by Salwa Asmaren, Darya Zetzifa, Norma Hattar, and Ilias Tu'meh.
- ☆ Exhibition on the city of Salt.
- ☆ Caricature drawings exhibition by Imad Hajjaj, Kifah Mahmoud, and Khaldoun Gharaibeh.
- ☆ Exhibition of handicrafts.
- ☆ Comprehensive agricultural exhibition (held for the first time with the participation of the private and public sectors).

State of emergency declared in Sri Lanka after polls close

COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lankans voted in a national election Tuesday, and the government immediately imposed a state of emergency when the polls closed to avoid violence.

In addition to the emergency, which allows police to arrest and detain anyone without charges, the government also declared a 24-hour curfew nationwide until Friday morning.

Tamil rebels who opposed the election blew up a navy ship in northern Sri Lanka during the vote, and 25 minor clashes were reported between rival party supporters.

But 24 people died in street fighting during the month-long campaign, and police expect more violence if the governing United National Party (UNP), which has been in power for 17 years, loses.

If the socialist Peoples' Alliance, a five-party opposition coalition, wins control of parliament, it has promised to take steps that the United National Party could end up rejecting.

The Peoples' Alliance says it will choose its leader, Chandrika Kumaratunga, as prime minister; restructure the government to make her, not the president, the most powerful official, and hold unconditional talks with the rebels, who have been fighting for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka for 11 years.

As president, Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, leader of the centrist United National Party, has far more power than any other government official, and he can pick whomever he wants as prime minister, even if his party loses control of parliament.

His party also has refused to negotiate with the Tamil rebels in a nation where many of the majority Sinhalese hate Tamils and deeply resent a guerrilla war that has killed 354,000 people.

Naval officials said guerrilla divers probably placed mines under the 4,000-ton navy surveillance that sank in Kankesanthurai Harbour along with a nearby tug boat.

Two sailors were missing, and 33 others swam to safety after the explosion at dawn, a navy official said.

The harbour is controlled by the government but located in the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula, and few people were voting there.

The guerrillas opposed the election, and they told the nation's Tamil minority to stay away from the polls.

In Colombo, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe said he was not surprised by the attack because the government had intercepted guerrilla walkie-talkie messages about a major assault.

More than 40,000 policemen and thousands of gun-toting soldiers patrolled the streets Tuesday to prevent violence.

More than 75 per cent of the estimated 11 million voters cast ballots in 10,000 polling stations, the government said. Forty-five international election observers from countries such as the United States, Britain, France and India monitored the polls.

Despite many clashes during the campaign, and the fact that past ballots have been marked by fraud and voter intimidation, many people lined up outside polling stations in schools and government offices at dawn Tuesday to cast their ballots.

"I came here early because I didn't want someone else to cast my vote. ... It happened last time," said Nainar Mohammad Ghani in Colombo. Like all voters, Mr. Ghani walked out with his left pinky covered in indelible violet ink to prevent him from voting again.

No complaints about electoral fraud were immediately reported.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe casts his vote at a polling booth shortly after parliamentary elections began (AFP photo)

Greenland premier treated for alcoholism

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Lars Emil Johansen, the prime minister of Greenland, is being treated for alcoholism at an undisclosed site, the Danish newspaper Extra Baldet reported Monday. Mr. Johansen, 47, said in a July 3 interview with the newspaper that he had "a serious problem with alcohol." "Many are prisoners of this problem, a taboo subject, and the first step toward a solution is to recognise it yourself," he said. The newspaper said he would undergo a six-week treatment.

Jesus was not crucified — former U.K. minister

LONDON (AFP) — Jesus was not crucified by the Romans, but stoned for blasphemy by the Jewish authorities, according to a forthcoming book by former Conservative Minister Enoch Powell, the Independent reported Tuesday. Mr. Powell is also said to claim the Sermon on the Mount was never delivered as we have it and that when Jesus praised "the poor" and "children", he was speaking allegorically of Gentiles. Mr. Powell, who was professor of Greek at Sydney University by the age of 25, announced the conclusion in notes and preface to a new translation he has made of St. Matthew's Gospel which will be published by Yale University Press next month. Most scholars of all denominations believe the Gospel of Mark was the first to be written. But according to the paper, Mr. Powell grounds his closely argued case on a belief that Matthew's is the first of the four Gospels to have been written, and that Mark and Luke derive from it.

Indian skirts too hot for U.S. to handle

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian parliament took a break Tuesday from every day business to discuss the rejection last week of 250,000 locally-made skirts by the United States on grounds that they were too dangerous for wear. Textile Minister G. Venkataswamy told parliament's upper house that he would call a meeting of textile exporters soon to discuss Friday's rejection by the U.S. government of 250,000 Indian-made rayon skirts. The recall of the garments from American retailers nationwide follows U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's allegations that a fire started by a single match could consume one of the gauzy skirts within three seconds. Mr. Venkataswamy said he was not aware of any injuries anywhere in the world to those wearing made-in-India rayon skirts. "Indian skirts have become very popular in the U.S.," the minister said, adding that America's skirt market imported $33.33 million worth of such garments from India in 1993-94. The rejected skirts sell for between $16 and $80, and most are marked "Made in India." "India has nothing to fear," Mr. Venkataswamy said as members from Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress (I) Party urged the government to take up the issue with the Clinton administration in Washington. The U.S. consumer commission has asserted that even a lighted cigarette can set these skirts on fire. "If you have it don't wear it.." commission chief Ann Brown was quoted as saying in Indian newspapers, one of which dubbed the skirts as "too hot for Americans to handle."

Lion hunt reported near Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS, Canada (AFP) — Two adult African lions escaped from a barn and roamed a highway near Niagara Falls until they were recaptured by authorities, police said. The owner of the giant felines had boarded them in a barn in rural Niagara Falls where it was legal to do so, police said. Specialists dispatched to the highway had no trouble tranquilising the animals and picking them up, said Sergeant Bob Ciupa, saying the lions were extremely docile. Law enforcement authorities were forced to close two kilometres of highway while the animals were being recaptured.

Suharto sets strict guidelines for openness

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto announced strict guidelines Tuesday for political openness in Indonesia, warning that without such limits there would be anarchy.

"Without rules and without their observance, what will emerge is anarchy, not democracy," Mr. Suharto told the 500-member parliament on the eve of the 49th anniversary of independence.

"Any political aspirations are justifiable as long as they are presented through democratic and constitutional means," he said in prepared remarks.

Mr. Suharto, who came to power amid political chaos in the late 1960s and last year urged greater openness, was speaking after some of the worst student and labour unrest seen in Indonesia in years.

In June the government closed two popular news magazines and one tabloid paper, apparently because of their reporting of sensitive political issues, including the recent purchase of 35 ageing former East German warships.

Late last year Muslim students staged the first demonstration outside the presidential palace in central Jakarta in protest against a state lottery that was later scrapped. In April, ethnically-charged labour rioting hit northern Sumatra.

Muchtar Pakpahan, head of Indonesia's largest independent labour union, was detained by police Saturday, apparently in connection with April's inrest in which at least one ethnic Chinese businessman was killed.

"What we really need is a responsible openness," Mr. Suharto, a retired army general who has ruled the archipelago of about 14,000 islands said.

He equated political stability when economic development in the world's fourth most populous nation and Asia's only member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"Our nation is so diverse. The history of our development is still young. This makes us vulnerable, especially against divisive elements," the 73-year-old Suharto said.

"Differences of opinion are one of the characteristics of democracy. We must respect every opinion — even though different — as part of fundamental human rights.

"But as a state under the law, even democracy has its rules," Mr. Suharto told parliament, comprising 400 elected members and 100 appointed by the armed forces.

He made passing reference to the armed forces, saying they "play quite a prominent role" in defence and security.

Diplomats say Mr. Suharto, elected for a sixth five-year term as president in March 1993, has had to play off concerned generals, Muslim groups, dissident groups and others in the ethnically diverse nation since 1991.

Mexican rebels closely watch presidential vote

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — For the first time in modern Mexican history, presidential elections will be held under the watchful eye of leftist rebels who have threatened to unleash nationwide protests if there is vote fraud.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) goes to the polls Sunday with the prospect of gaining less than 50 per cent of the vote by the official tallay for the first time since it took control of Mexico in 1929 after a long and bloody civil war.

But the PRI is still expected to win. The party's candidate Ernesto Zedillo is leading the polls ahead of the conservative National Action Party's Diego Fernandez and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas of the centre-left Party of the Democratic Revolution.

A healthy portion of voters also believe that Mr. Cardenas, the son of a legendary president and running third this year, actually won the 1988 election rather than President Carlos Salinas.

In addition to national and foreign observers, the Zapatista National Liberation Army, which took several southern Mexican towns on Jan. 1, has called from jungle stronghold for supporters to vote against the PRI.

The mostly Indian Zapatista guerrillas began their fight to dislodge the PRI and the Salinas government the same day the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect linking the United Stastes, Mexico and Canada.

The impact of this uprising — and the assassination in March of PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio — forced the government to implement anti-fraud reforms that the opposition has been demanding for years.

These changes include opening the ruling council of the Federal Election Institurte, which oversees balloting, to non-PRI perssonel, the creation of a special prosecutor to investigate electoral fraud and widening opposition access to the mass media.

Several months ago, rebel leader Subcommandante Marcos threatened a total war against the PRI if the ruling party resorted to fraud to win, as the opposition alleged they have for years.

But with two weeks to go before the vote, the rebels opted for a less violent strategy: A campaign of civil disobnedience that includes rallies, blackouts, boycotts of utility payments and a national work stoppage.

This new position grew out of the National Democratic Convention that some 6,000 rebels and supporters held in the remote Lacandon jungle not far from the Guatemalan border early this month.

Although the rebels had been expected to harden their line during the gathering, the ski-masked Marcos asked those attending to reach out to voters and create peaceful routes to convert Mexico into a democracy.

But this does not mean an end to the growing violence in Mexico.

There have been several news reports — denied by the government — that rebel groups are arming in such diverse states as Oaxaca to the south and Puebla and Guerrero in the centre. Some are expecting attacks to begin on Aug. 21.

There has been reports of an impending uprising in Chiapas prior to the New Year's Day attack but these were also denied by the government.

Marcos has also indicated that the Zapatistas are in touch with other rebels.

"We have contacted these armed groups to give them an idea of what occurred here in this convention and to let them know that the revolutionary armies never attack those who they claim to represent," he told reporters.

But the PRI's biggest challenge will be to win back the sceptics among the electorate at large.

Critics still harbour bitter memories of the 1988 vote in which computers tallying ballots went down for seven days and then came back up to declare Mr. Salinas the winner — despite vociferous protests from the opposition.

Party of former dictator wins Guatemalan elections

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — The party of former Guatemalan dictator General Efrain Rios Montt, promising to stamp out crime and corruption, swept to victory in Sunday's congressional elections, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal said.

The Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG) party led by Gen. Rios Montt won 32 seats in the reduced 80-member Congress, well ahead of its closest rival — the pro-business Party for National Advancement (PAN) with 24 seats, tribunal President Mario Guerra said Monday.

The Christian Democrat Party trailed with 13 seats and other parties won the remaining 11 seats. Results will be officially ratified later this week, Mr. Guerra told repor ters.

Elections were called 15 months early in a bid to purge the Congress of corrupt members in the wake of highly publicised scandals.

Less than a quarter of the electorate voted in the elections hailed by President Ramiro De Leon as the "beginning of a new era" in Guatemalan politics.

The victory of the FRG, whose fundamentalist Evangelical leader is accused by human rights groups of killing thousands of Guatemalans after he seized power in a coup in March 1982, is seen by some analysts as a return to Guatemala's dark past.

"For me it is tragic that someone like the general has been elected," political analysts Gabriel Aguilera told Reuters.

Although the new Congress will only be in office for little over a year, deputies may be required to vote on legislation that would legalise a pending peace accord to end Guatemala's 33-year civil war.

U.S. Senate continues health reform debate

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate faced all-night sessions on health reform Tuesday as a group of moderate Republicans and Democrats searched for a bipartisan agreement that could bridge the gap between deeply divided lawmakers.

The Senate Tuesday entered its seventh day of debate on the complex health reform plan by Senate majority leader George Mitchell having yet to vote on a single amendment as Republicans insisted on airing their views in a steady stream of speeches.

In an effort to prod Republicans, Sen. Mitchell threatened to keep the Senate in session around the clock until votes are allowed. If Republicans yield, the First Amendment the Senate would vote on would require private health insurers to cover preventive care for pregnant women and babies.

Meanwhile, members of the bipartisan group, who call themselves the "mainstream," worked to complete a compromise initiative they hoped to outline to Sen. Mitchell possibly as early as Tuesday.

They have not spelled out their plan but have said they want to reshape the pending Mitchell bill to include medical malpractice and less government spending while relying less on bureaucracy and more on market forces to contain costs.

"We are light years away from Senator Mitchell," said Senator John Danforth, a Missouri Republican. He said the mainstream's ideas would "not frighten" people.

Much of the debate has been dominated by partisan bickering.

The Democrats sought to paint the Republican plan as a half-hearted effort that does nothing for 39 million uninsured Americans. Republicans encounter that the Democratic plan will create huge new government bureaucracies and cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

"The Senate is divided over health care reform," said Senator John Rockefeller, a West Virginia Democrat who is a strong ally of President Bill Clinton and his effort to pass health reform that covers all Americans.

Meanwhile, President Clinton, flanked by three relatives of recent murder victims, stepped up efforts Monday to win approval for an anti-crime bill unexpectedly rejected by Congress last week.

Mr. Clinton called for a fresh vote on the crime-fighting package in the House of Representatives, adding that he wanted no more delays from legislators.

"We have to face the fact that we have the highest murder rate in the world," Mr. Clinton said. "There should be no more excuses."

The crime package includes a ban on 19 types of assault weapons, funding to boost the number of policemen patrolling streets by 100,000 and tougher sentences for third-time violent offenders.

The bill was defeated on a procedural matter in a vote that capped months of intense lobbying by the nation's top gun lobby, the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Mr. Clinton received backing for his bid to pass the bill from the president of a police association, Dewey Stokes, who said at a White House ceremony that the weapons ban was a "non-negotiable item" in the crime-fighting package.

His remarks were echoed by White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers who said the administration was holding talks with Congress to "see if there are changes we can make that don't compromise the president's bottom line."

The White House is eight votes short of winning approval for the crime bill that has been stannchly opposed by Republicans and several Democrats who argue it will raise taxes more than it will fight crime.

The bill was stopped Thursday by a margin of 225 to 210 on a procedural motion that kept it from coming to the House floor.

Mr. Clinton stressed that partisanship should not be a factor in voting on the crime bill. "There should be no more discussion as to whether it is a Democratic bill, a Republican bill or a Clinton bill," he said.

Woodstock party is over, but stragglers remain

SAUGERTIES, New York (AP) — The muddy fields of Woodstock looked like the place where lost socks go to die.

Tattered shoes, bottles and cans, pillows, blankets, raw hot dogs, lawn chairs, sleeping bags and even tents also remained Monday. So did a few thousand stragglers who scavenged for souvenirs and tried to prolong the party.

About 350,000 people came to the three-day rock festival. Some fans threatened to stay a few days longer, but authorities tried to give them a gentle nudge so the site could be cleaned. The air was filled with the rank odor of rotting food and overflowing toilets.

"We're going to try to get to everyone and remind them that the concert is over," said state police Lt.-Col. James O'Donnell.

A cleanup crew of 250 people already was picking through the 350-hectare (850-acre) concert site when Peter Gabriel closed the show about 1:40 a.m. Monday, promoters had no estimate of how long the cleanup would take.

People living near the site scooped up abandoned camping equipment, saying they would use it themselves or sell it. Others grapped everything from muddy clothing to the mud itself.

A crowd gathered around a broken box of leftover Woodstock programmes, that apparently had fallen off a truck. People left with armloads of the slick publications that had been selling for $15 each.

Sergio Tamayo of Los Angeles had an array of muddy T-shirts spread out on a blanket. He found them amid the debris at abandoned campsites.

"They're souvenirs for friends I couldn't afford to buy gifts for," Tamayo said, wiping the caked mud off an unopened can of Budweiser that he had dug out of the ground. "Now I can give them something I found at Woodstock."

Despite the similarities between Woodstock '94 and the original weekend of peace and love, promoters expect the aftermath to include at least one big difference: Money in their pockets.

Alan Butler, a tourist from Australia, wakes up late in front of the main stage at Woodstock '94 to find that almost everyone has left. The three day rock festival finished in the early hours of Monday as thousands of people negotiated mud, crowds, and traffic to get home (AFP photo)

Promoter John Scher, president of Polygram Diversified Entertainment, said Monday that organisers anticipate a "modest profit" from the three-day show. He would not estimate an amount, but put expenses at more than $30 million.

An estimated 350,000 people attended the show Saturday, before heavy rain and mud thinned out the crowd Sunday. Mr. Scher estimates about 200,000 tickets were sold at $135 apiece. That alone would make $27 million for the partnership between Polygram and the three promoters of the original Woodstock.

"I would think that the show certainly has potential when everything is done, to be profitable," said Gary Bongionvanni, publisher of Pollstar, a concert industry trade publication.

The partnership that put on the 1969 show — Michael Lang, Joel Rosenma and John Roberts — later declared brankruptcy.

Finances for the 25th anniversary show may take some time to shake out because of the variety of sideline products, such as sponsorships and merchandising material, Mr. Scher said.

"If you call my office in a few months and I'm still there, you'll know I turned a profit," the veteran promoter joked.

Final estimates were not in of how many people paid $49.95 to see th entire show on pay-per-view TV. One day's worth of music also was available for $34.95. Mr. Scher said he expected a "record-setting" performance, but wouldn't say what he meant.

The concert also was filmed for a documentary, and A And M Records will release a two-CD set of concert highlights in November.

Polygram officials reportedly patrolled the site's outskirts, confiscating bootleg merchandise.

Promoter s deflected questions about the possibility of another Woodstock. But whatever they decide, it may not be the last time music is heard on the 350-hectare (850-acre) piece of land where the show was held.

There has been a push locally to build a permanent performing arts centre there. That is an alternative to controversial plans to turn the site into a huge landfill.

The joke Monday was that the dump was already there, with sleeping bags, tents, bottles and blankets strewn across the property.

Thousands of stragglers, gently prodded by authorities, packed up their tents and sleeping bags and moved on.

Two deaths were reported at the show, and two women died in a car crash on their way home. Authorities said arrested 24 people and treated nearly 4,000 for mostly minor injuries.

Mike Dirnt, bassist for the punk band Green Day, damaged three teeth and injured his arm after being tackled by a security guard Sunday during an on-stage mudfight with the crowd, according to a release by the band's label, Warner Brothers.

A bus carrying security workers from the Woodstock reunion collided Monday with three trucks in an accident that left 25 injured including one critically, police said.

Twelve people were treated and released and the others were taken to hospitals with various injuries.

The bus was travelling from Saugerties, New york to Chicago when it slammed into a pileup 95 kilometres northwest of Pittsburgh.

DIST EDITORS PRESS SERVICE, INC

Rwandan Hutu refugees cross a bridge from the Rwandan town of Cyangugu to the Zairean border town of Bukavu (AFP photo)

Aid group says Rwandan Hutu refugees cluster on border

KIGALI (R) — Rwandan Hutus in a French army "safe haven" are massing on the border with Zaire days before the French withdraw, creating a new humanitarian nightmare for helpless aid workers.

A Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF — Doctors Without Borders) team counted 25,000 people reaching the frontier town of Cyangugu Monday, spokeswoman Samantha Bolton said Tuesday.

"MSF has the impression there is not much we can do to stop the movement," said Ms. Bolton, signalling the growing despair of aid agencies already struggling to cope with about 2.7 million Rwandan refugees outside the devastated nation's borders.

"We have to be there to prepare for the influx and as yet there are no sites prepared in Cyangugu."

Ms. Bolton said between 2,000 and 5,000 people were crossing the frontier into the Zairean town of Bukavu each day but most were jamming themselves up against the border on the Rwandan side.

Hutus started moving from deeper inside the safe haven towards Zaire last week, driven by a fear that the pull-out of French troops from Operation Turquoise by next Monday will signal an invasion of mainly Tutsi guerrillas who have taken the rest of Rwanda.

Fear of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) is being stoked among the Hutus by militiamen, soldiers and officials from the defeated former Hutu government, Ms. Bolton said.

The common rumour is that the RPF are butchering Hutus. The U.N. is investigating reports of abuses by RPF soldiers but says there is no evidence of a pattern.

By contrast, the former Hutu administration is accused by the world community of the genocide of 500,000 Tutsis and Hutus who supported opposition parties in the weeks after President Juvenal Habyarimana was assassinated on April 6.

"There is a concerted and constant propaganda campaign going on throughout the safe zone," Ms. Bolton said. "People tell us they are fleeing the war but that is not logical."

By encouraging people from the majority Hutu tribe to flee, the former government is robbing the victors of a people to rule over.

An ill-equipped and understaffed United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) is racing to deploy peacekeepers in the place of French forces who arrived in June.

Late Monday 150 Ethiopians, the first of an 800-strong battalion replacing the French in Cyangugu, arrived in Kigali. The others, together with a small contingent of Tunisians, were expected to arrive by Friday.

U.N. Rwandan Emergency Organisation (UNREO) spokeswoman Sybilla Wilkes said an exodus to Bukavu in Zaire threatened a crisis unmatched even by the apocalyptic camps of Goma, where about a million refugees have been cut down in thousands by disease.

"Bukavu does not have the infrastructure to support a large influx of refugees. The results there could be more horrific than Goma," Ms. Wilkes told reporters.

Ms. Wilkes said the best solution was to establish camps inside Rwanda, just south of Cyangugu, where the refugees could be managed more easily — if they could be persuaded to stay.

In a campaign to coax refugees home with a message of reconciliation, three ministers from the newly-formed government in Kigali travelled to Gikongoro inside the zone to try to persuade people to stay.

About half-a-million people are displaced around Gikongoro, which is on the eastern edge of the zone. About 10,000 of those who arrived in Cyangugu Monday were from Gikongoro.

Meanwhile, the first-ever convoy sent direct to a Zairean camp to help Rwandan refugees return home was cancelled Tuesday after they were frightened into changing their minds, a U.N. spokesman said.

Some 144 refugees at the Mugunga camp, just north of Goma, were due to leave for the Rwandan capital Kigali early Tuesday morning, travelling in seven trucks provided by the International Migration Office and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Most of them were farmers, more worried about missing the autumn harvest than by the threats of Hutu militants in the camp.

But despite aid group efforts to keep the project low-key, camp "chiefs" — mostly former Rwandan government officials — heard of the project and tried to get the names of those involved, UNHCR spokesman Panos Moumtzis said.

"They spread the story that (the returnees) were RPF collaborators and called for a massacre," he explained.

The aid groups decided to cancel the operation so as not to put the refugees' lives at risk, and the trucks returned over the border empty.

Until now transport for returnees has only been provided from Gisenyi just over the border in Rwanda, rather than direct from the camps.

The convoy's failure was a blow for the aid group trying to bring down the population of Zaire's overflowing camps ahead of the rainy season later this month, which threatens to unleash new epidemics among the 800,000 people now in the area.

At Kibumba camp further north, some 2,000 people want to return to Rwanda but no decisions have been taken about a further convoy.

Rwandan children peer through a fence in a refugee camp located in the French security area near the Zairean border (AFP photo)

China foils North Korean plot to kill Kim Young-Sam – report

HONG KONG (AFP) — China foiled an alleged plot by North Korea to assassinate South Korean President Kim Young-Sam during his visit to China last year, a Hong Kong-based monthly magazine said Tuesday.

China's intelligence services uncovered Pyongyang's plot to murder Mr. Kim in reprisal for Beijing's decision to establish diplomatic relations with Seoul in 1991, said Zhang Zirong, a Beijing University international relations lecturer, in an article in the latest issue of the China-watching magazine Contemporary.

His article said the plot was uncovered in May 1993.

Mr. Kim was in Beijing in March last year and again in March this year, but is not known to have visited China in May last year.

Mr. Zhang, quoting reliable sources, said Pyongyang had sent three women spies to China to carry out the assassination, but they were thwarted by the Beijing State Security Bureau.

He said China's action had prevented another "Rangoon incident," a reference to the bomb blast in the Burmese capital in October 1983 which killed 18 high-ranking visiting South Korean officials.

Mr. Zhang is believed to be the first Chinese expert to refer publicly to a North Korean attempt on Mr. Kim's life, although there have been unconfirmed rumours of such a plot.

Meanwhile the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Tuesday it hoped to restart all its inspections in North Korea following the agreement reached between the United States and North Korea in Geneva Saturday.

In a statement published here the IAEA said it welcomed the accord signed by the two powers Friday on North Korea's suspected nuclear programme.

In the accord, North Korea agreed to remain a member of the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and said it would allow the implementation of the guarantees accord — coded language for inspections.

"The agency assumes that this undertaking will mean discontinuing current restrictions on the activities of its inspectors," in the country, the statement said.

The agency had already Saturday welcomed the accord but said that much more work remained to be done before suspicions over North Korea's nuclear programme could be laid to rest.

IAEA inspections have so far been limited to the experimental five-megawatt reactor at Yongbyon, the stockpiling of 8,000 fuel rods withdrawn from there in June, and a fuel reprocessing centre also at Yongbyon.

The agency hopes now it can broaden its inspections to cover the other five of the seven nuclear sites declared by North Korea, the agency spokesman Hans-Friedrich Meyer said.

In a separate development, top officials in Seoul said South Korean reactors are virtually certain to be chosen in any deal to replace North Korea's old graphite-based nuclear power stations.

"North Korea has agreed to let the United States make the selection and South Korea and the United States have already reached an understanding to choose the South Korean models," Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo said.

"In reality, there is no other alternative for the North than to accept South Korean models," Mr. Han was quoted as saying by South Korea's Yonhap News Agency while in Oslo.

The Han statement was backed by a spokesman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party here.

Over 2,000 detained in Seoul

South Korean police rounded up some 2,400 people during and after last week's North Korean-inspired rallies across the country which also left dozens injured in clashes with riot police, police said Tuesday.

The police picked up a total of 2,394 persons from Friday through noon Tuesday, most of them radical students and dissidents around rally sites in Seoul and other provincial cities.

Those arrested, more than 1,000 of them taken in on the last day of the rally Sunday, were placed in custody for questioning, Yonhap News Agency said.

In Seoul, a total of 105 ralliers were detained around the Seoul National University campus overnight, where police helicopters sprayed a concentrated version of liquified teargas which left deep burns on demonstrators, to disperse a crowd of 10,000 preparing to hold a "pan-national" rally.

Yonhap said four had been formally arrested for violating the strict National Security Law, 47 had been referred to summary courts and 891 had been set free.

But 1,444 were still being questioned, the agency said. The southeastern port of Pusan, South Korea's second largest city after Seoul, accounted for 546 people netted in the roundup.

The government is determined to root out campus radicalism "at whatever cost," a top government official said Tuesday.

Home Minister Choik Hyong-Woo made the declaration after discussing with senior law enforcement officials on weekend clashes.

"The government will never tolerate violence challenging law and order and will root it out at any cost," Mr. Choi said.

Chief presidential spokesman Choo Don-Shik said Tuesday that the government would deal strictly with any students involved in the weekend violence.

"It is President Kim Young-Sam's belief that there should be no forgiveness concerning violence, in any form, that destroys democracy," Mr. Choo told reporters.

Marshall Islands volunteer to be nuclear dump

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — The Marshall Islands were ravaged by U.S. nuclear tests from 1946 to 1962. Now the president is offering nuclear waste and warheads.

Environmentalists are aghast and neighbouring countries are mystified.

"It is a crazy idea," said Bunny McDiarmid, a campaigner with Greenpeace. "The island countries have fought for years to be nuclear-free. The Marshalls know better than anyone else the dangers of nuclear material."

Some of the archipelago, 3,840 kilometres (2,400 miles) soutwest of Hawaii, remains highly radioactive frm the explosions, which included the first hydrogen bomb blast.

But President Amata Kabua is willing to sacrifice one contaminated island, leasing it for waste storage and disposal. He believes the revenue would pay for the rehabilitation of other radioactive islands, which could then be resettled by their former owners, many of whom have cancer and other illnesses related to radiation.

A huge problem for the rest of the world would be solved at the same time," Mr. Kabua argues.

"Let us together regard this prospect as a glimmer of hope for mankind's salvation from nuclear dangers," he told a meeting of Pacific leaders in Birsbane earlier this month.

Mr. Kabua has ordered an investigation into whether strict international environmental, economic and technical requirements could be met. An exact site has not yet been chosen.

Two neighbouring island countries, Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia, have criticised the proposal. Other members of the 15-nation South Pacific Forum are quietly hoping the investigation will find the plan impractical.

The forum, which groups island states with Australia and New Zealand, declared their territories and waters a collective nuclear-free zone in 1985.

For years the forum castigated France for testing nuclear weapons in French Polynesia. The tests were suspended in 1992. It is also drafting a treaty to ban dumping radioactive and chemical waste in the region by 1996.

Mr. Kabua hopes the nuclear repository proposal can be exempted from the ban.

Australia, which dominates the South Pacific economically and politically, is trying to cleanup hundreds of square miles (kilometres) of its own outback contaminated by British nuclear tests in the 1950s.

It hasn't directly commented on the Marshalls' idea, although officials privately doubt it will get off the ground.

The Marshall Islands is a collection of 34 islands with more than 50,000 people. It's one of the world's poorest nations with few resources and little economic potential.

'Pilots argument caused KAL crash'

SEOUL (R) — An argument between the Canadian pilot and South Korean co-pilot is thought to have caused the crash of a Korean Air Lines Airbus last week, a Transport Ministry report said Tuesday.

The Airbus 300-600R crashed on landing at the tourist island of Cheju after a flight from Seoul last Wednesday, but all 160 people on board managed to escape the burning plane before it exploded into a huge fireball.

The ministry report said analysis of the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder showed the Canadian pilot Barry Woods and South Korean co-pilot Chung Chan-Kyu argued as they brought the plane into Cheju Airport during a rainstorm.

Police said last week that Capt. Woods had accused Mr. Chung during their investigations of trying to manipulate the control column while he was landing.

Khasbulatov calls on Dudayev to go

TOLSTOV-YURT, Russia (AFP) — Former Russian parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has called on the breakaway republic's leader Dzhokhar Dudayev to quit and urged fresh parliamentary elections to end the country's political crisis.

Mr. Khasbulatov, who returned to his native Chechenya last week, also called for the post of a president to be scrapped and free parliamentary elections to be held in October or November.

"The only solution to the conflict is for Dudayev to leave," Mr. Khasbulatov told the meeting from the back of truck in the market town. He was applauded with cries of "Ruslan, Ruslan" by a crowd of about 600.

He made his call during a meeting of representatives from 16 Chechen regions who assembled in his native village, 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) northwest of the capital, Grozny.

He won support for his view that General Dudayev should open talks with the country's opposition groups," Mr. Dudayev unilaterally declared independence from Russia in the autumn of 1991, a move Moscow has refused to recognise.

On Sunday Mr. Khasbulatov said that he had won an agreement from several armed opposition groups to refrain from hostilities.

Tensions are already running high amid rumours of an impending Russian invasion of the tiny breakaway Muslim republic, which has a population of 1.5 million.

Mr. Dudayev declared martial law Thursday, closing Chechen airspace to all unauthorised flights and ordering a general mobilisation of some 600,000 men to counter the invasion threat.

But analysts said the move might also be aimed at neutralising Mr. Dudayev's internal opposition, which announced early August that it had overthrown him.

Protected by a group of around 25 men armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and grenades, Mr. Khasbulatov called for the presidency to be scrapped and replaced by a parliamentary and local council system.

Mr. Khasbulatov called for an enquiry into the handling of the economy since Mr. Dudayev took power in 1991, amid widespread allegations of corruption in the tiny oil-rich state.

Despite its mineral wealth many public sector employees have not been paid in recent months.

Judge withdraws from Abiola trial

ABUJA (R) — Presidential claimant Moshood Abiola's treason trial was halted Tuesday when the judge withdrew from the case, leaving a political crisis which has paralysed Nigeria unresolved.

Mr. Abiola, whose arrest touched off crippling strikes and riots, was led out of the court by security police.

There was no sign that military rulers were ready to drop charges against the multi-millionaire media magnate, the undeclared winner of an annulled presidential election last year.

The election was scrapped by the military in spite of promises that democracy would be restored, Mr. Abiola was arrested in June after proclaiming himself president in an open challenge to General Sani Abacha.

Union leaders have been negotiating with the government to win Mr. Abiola's freedom and were expecting charges against him to be dropped Tuesday.

Instead, with Nigeria and world oil markets hanging on every twist in the story, the hearing came to a dramatic close.

"I hereby withdraw from further presiding over this case," Judge Mohammad Mustapha told the packed courtroom.

"It has been my desire to see that the accused gets unhindered justice. Now it is clear from all the utterrances that they have no confidence in me.

"I wish to excuse myself from further hearing the case," Judge Mustapha said before walking out of the courtroom.

Before standing down, however, Judge Mustapha ruled that the court in the capital Abuja had jurisdiction over the case. Mr. Abiola's chief lawyer, Godwin Ajayi, said he would appeal against that ruling.

Lawyers said his withdrawal meant the chief judge of Nigeria would have to appoint another judge to take over the case, which could take some time.

Riot police had cordoned off all approaches to the court.

Tipper Gore talks of 'haunting' visit with Rwandan refugees

WASHINGTON (R) — Vice President Al Gore's wife, Tipper, haunted by the suffering of Rwandan refugees she visited, Monday spoke for the first time about horrors she saw and the "miracles" being performed by relief workers.

"My heart told me to go it's that simple," the vice president's wife said in an interview with Reuters about her two days at overcrowded, disease-ridden camps in Zaire.

"I had to go... and love these people, let them know there is love in the world, because all they've been experiencing lately is hell and hatred and inhumanity," she said. "They have to see that there is something else... besides evil."

Mrs. Gore and an aide, Sally Aman, earlier this month went to an orphanage in Goma, where an estimated one million Rwandans have fled, and to a camp in Kibumba, 25 kilometres to the north.

"It's a horrible human tragedy," said Mrs. Gore, who until now has been reluctant to talk about the experience — and is speaking about it in hopes of spurring donations to some of the 70 private relief agencies trying to stop the death and suffering along Zaire's border with Rwanda.

She spent the two days holding children, trying to comfort dying parents and helping physicians find those who needed help the most out of a mass of humanity all needing help.

Mrs. Gore, whose eyes became moist as she told her story, spoke softly about trying to help a young boy at the Mugunga Orphanage, run jointly by UNICEF and the Catholic Relief Agency.

"I picked him up and thought 'why is this child so hard?' then I realised, literally I was holding a skeleton," she said. "I was holding bones. There was no give. I was rubbing him along his back and all I felt was his vertebrae."

At another point, she found herself surrounded by youngsters but unable to get a lone 12-year-old girl, who kept away from the group, to join in.

"I couldn't get her to smile," she said. "I was winking I was doing everything I could think of. I went over and I put my arms around her and she just immediately fell into my shoulder."

She stayed with her for 30 minutes, speaking periodically in French: "She had seen her parent and her brothers hacked to death in front of her... I never really did get her to smile, but at least she did respond to some human warmth."

"It was the most incredible experience I've ever had," Mrs. Gore said. "It was so powerful. I keep thinking about the people. They keep haunting me, the people we left there."

Herself the mother of three girls and a boy, Mrs. Gore started to talk about a woman with six children who was dying and was worried about who would take care of them.

Bonn uncovers plutonium smuggling case

BREMEN, Germany (R) — Authorities in the north German city of Bremen said Tuesday they had arrested a 34-year-old German for possessing plutonium — the third case of plutonium smuggling discovered in four months.

A spokesman for the Bremen Prosecutor's Office said the man had been arrested Saturday after producing a sample of just under two grammes (0.07 ounces) of the radioactive material for a prospective client, and offering to supply more.

The revelation came shortly after an undercover police agent said former East German army and intelligence officials were using their good contacts with the former Soviet Union to help make Germany the hub of an international "nuclear mafia."

Bavarian police revealed last weekend that they had arrested couriers who arrived on a flight from Moscow in possession of over 300 grammes (10.6 ounces) of plutonium-239, a substance so toxic that a few millionths of a gramme can kill.

Besides the three confirmed finds of plutonium this year, there has been one case of smuggled weapons-grade uranium.

The couriers ran a skilled operation, shielding their cargo in a steel case sheathed in radiation-absorbing lead.

They not only offered to supply a total of four kilogrammes of plutonium-239 — close to the amount needed to make an atom bomb — but also offered a quantity of lithium-6, used to make so-called neutron bombs.

No information was immediately available on the quality or origin of the plutonium seized in the latest find, although the prosecutor's office said there was no evidence of a link with the other cases.

However, German authorities say their analyses prove all the plutonium seized so far comes from Russia or the former Soviet Union.

Meanwhile Russia charged Tuesday that reports of smuggling of weapons-grade nuclear materials out of the country were part of a plot by the West aimed at gaining control over Russian nuclear weapons.

"Attempts to blame Russia for being unable to control the non-proliferation of its nuclear weapons, technologies and materials are politically-motivated," an official of the Russian Federal Counter-espionage Service (FSK) said.

The official, Alexander Mikhailov, was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying that accusations of Russian laxity were part of a campaign to prepare public opinion "for the idea of implementing political control over Russian nuclear weapons."

Vladimir Klimenko, a top national security advisor to President Boris Yeltsin, was quoted in the same dispatch as saying that the campaign against Russia was being orchestrated by Western intelligence services and news media.

Mr. Klimenko told TASS in an interview that the plan was "to unleash a wave of public opinion in favour of access for foreign states to control over production of nuclear materials in Russia."

He described the reports on nuclear smuggling as part of an anti-Russian propaganda campaign.

Jordan Times

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The Iraqi dimension

THERE IS no denying that the Gulf conflict had contributed a great deal to triggering the peace process in the region. Now after four years of sanctions imposed on Iraq which has complied fully with all U.N. resolutions, it is time to lift the sanctions and involve that country in the peace process.

The pressure for lifting the economic embargo on Iraq has recently been growing worldwide but especially among U.N. Security Council members. France, China, and Russia are in favour of lifting the sanctions soon; the U.S. and Britain are inclined to maintain the embargo for at least until mid-1995. The sanctions have had their toll on the Iraqi people who, for all intents and purposes, are not responsible for either the causes or the result of the Kuwait invasion. The Iraqi regime had prior to the 1990 crisis and recently been sending signals that it was not opposed to a peaceful settlement between the Arabs and Israel. The time is therefore ripe for a tradeoff that would involve lifting the sanctions in exchange for Iraq's inclusion in the peace process.

An arrangement involving such a tradeoff is of course in the best interest of Jordan. It would strengthen Jordan's hand in its negotiations with Israel and at the same time open a huge market for Jordanian businesses, a market that was lost as a result of the Gulf conflict. Involving Iraq in the multilateral track of the peace process, with its huge oil and water resources would add tremendous assets to the vision of an integrated Middle East.

Jordan, while hopeful that Iraq would join the multilaterals and resume its role among the states of the region, cannot contribute to the effort unless it is asked to do so. The U.S. still seems unconvinced that Iraq should be reintegrated in the Middle East and would continue to pursue the doctrine of dual containment — of Iraq and Iran — authored by President Bill Clinton's top Middle East aide Martin Indyk. Israel meanwhile, seems to be involved in secret negotiations with the Iraqis, even though it denies such talks exist.

As Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said in a recent interview, a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East requires the involvement of all the region's players, including Iraq. The sooner that is achieved the better for the peace prospects.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Tuesday criticised delays in delineating the Jordanian-Israeli borders. In its editorial, the paper quoted Jordanian negotiators to the talks with Israel as saying that positive results were achieved in procedural bilateral issues, but at the same time there was a slowdown in *negotiating issues related to delineating the borders.* The paper said the Article 5 of the common Jordanian-Israeli agenda refers to the British mandate borders and that the two sides agreed to that. The paper asked why should there be procrastination since the terms of reference of defining the border had been agreed upon. Delineation of the borders after the agreement should be a technical, procedural issue and there can be no justification for procrastinating this or interpreting it as a goodwill gesture, the paper added. It said the Jordanian people are anxiously waiting for the negotiations to achieve tangible results, especially in regaining sovereignty over Jordanian occupied lands and are anticipating that the Jordanian flag will soon be raised over these lands. The Jordanian people are also expecting that their government's speed in proving its credibility and goodwill in the peace process should be met by similar speed on the Israeli side, said the paper. Al Ra'i said that Israeli negotiators have already gathered enough evidence of Jordan's good intentions and can offer the evidence to the Israeli public opinion.

AL DUSTOUR Arabic daily dealt in its editorial with His Majesty King Hussein's address Monday to officers from the Fifth Royal Armoured Division. The paper said the King remembered in his address the martyrs of the Arab Army, most prominent among them to Great Arab Revolt leader *Al Hussein Ben Ali* and "*Al Aqsa martyr*" *Abdullah* Ben Al Hussein, and paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Arab Army. It said the Arab Army is the heir to the Great Arab Revolt's army and added that Jordan acts as a heart to the great Arab Nation. The people and the army in Jordan are one family which depicts the community of Al Muhajireen and Al Ansaar, said the paper in reference to those who immigrated with Prophet Mohammad from Mecca to Medina and those who supported them in Medina. The Jordanian society, it said, also reflects the best meanings of giving and sacrifices towards every Arab cause, namely the Palestinian question. Thus, it said, it was natural that a city as Jerusalem occupies such a status in King Hussein's heart and mind and it is not strange that the King does all he can to bring the city back to its people and to make it a symbol of peace and coexistence.

Iraq after sanctions: reevaluating foreign policy

By Laura Drake

DESPITE WASHINGTON's best attempts, all indications are that President Saddam Hussein will remain in power for the foreseeable future. This fact, combined with Iraq's near-total compliance with the arms-control provision of U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, the original ceasefire document, has convinced many states that the time to lift sanctions is fast approaching. It has reached the point where Washington's view are no longer shared by a majority of the permanent members in the U.N. Security Council. The failure of the U.S. strategy has become obvious to almost everyone except President Bill Clinton, and most of the international community is ready to move on.

France, Russia, China, Turkey and even Syria fear the consequences of Baghdad's prolonged absence from the international system. European corporations, particularly from *Germany, France and Italy*, are anxious to reopen the Iraqi domestic market, their representatives arriving in Baghdad by the busload to negotiate billions of dollars worth of contracts for Iraq's coming reconstruction effort. Many deals are nearing completion and will take effect as soon as the embargo is lifted.

In light of this heightened activity, questions are beginning to emerge in some quarters about the new, post-war Iraq which has been steadily developing over the past several years but which few people have ever seen. Many are asking: what will Iraq be like after sanctions? How has Iraq changed during its four years of solitude? What will its national and regional *priorities be?* How will it look upon the rest of the world?

Indeed, Iraq political thinking is presently undergoing a fundamental transformation, *in some of the* categories outlined below.

Decline of Ba'thist ideology

The pan-Arabist ideology of the Ba'th Party no longer exists in any real sence. It has been stamped out by a combination of three factors: the participation of so many Arab governments in the war against Iraq; the indifference of most regional actors to the suffering of the Iraqi people under the U.N. embargo; Iraq's prolonged physical separation from the Arab World.

In the 1970s Iraq's pan-Arabist regional stance enabled it to acquire the prestige of a regional leader. Today, Iraqis bitterly remember having sent troops to block Israel's advance on Damascus at the end of the 1973 war. They recall that it was their country which carried Egypt out of a decade of isolation after it signed the Camp David accords. And it was Iraq which protected the enitre Arab World in the 1980s, they say, by facing down the threat of Iranian expansion under Khomeini. "It was *these same governments* that responded by stabbing us in the back," commented a former Iraqi soldier. Iraqis reminisce about the sense of pride they once had in trying to put together and lead a pan-Arab system. At the same time, they become angry with themselves at what they consider their past naivete. Lamented one former Ba'thist: "from now on, we will have to listen to our head and not our emotions."

The disgust Iraqis feel at the behaviour of some other Arab states in Iraq's hour of need has largely discredited or at least rendered dormant the Ba'thist idea that once dominated the country's political thinking. "We didn't expect them to support our entering Kuwait," said one Iraq, "but we thought they would defend us when it became clear the U.S. objective was Iraq's destruction."

Because of its current weakness, Iraq has temporarily traded in its regional orientation for an international one. The trend can be seen on Baghdad's nightly newscasts, which now carry mostly local and international news, but very little regional news. "Iraq is not geopolitically credible" inside the region, said Kadhim Niame, a strategic *studies analyst who heads* the international affairs department at Baghdad University. "Iraq is accustomed to taking the initiative, to acting, not reacting. We cannot re-enter the region in our current condition. First we have to establish our intentions in the international arena."

Another Iraq, who preferred anonymity, echoed these thoughts, declaring that a regional policy for Iraq is "impossible" because the pivotal Arab governments are being "held hostage by U.S. priorities, thereby neglecting their *own interests. These regimes* are acting against the wishes of their people by mimicking Washington's policies, he asserted, and "marching to the orders of the U.N.," which he called "the New York branch office of the State Department". Since these countries "no longer take independent decisions," he argued, the formulation of a separate policy towards them out of their American context "would not be sensible."

This international outlook will probably not last long after the lifting of sanc*tions. Although Iraq will* not be a leading state in the Middle East for years to come, it will still have to live there. Baghdad, cannot escape its strategic importance; once the embargo is lifted it will have to either adopt a concrete regional policy or become the prey of neighbouring states with well develolped regional objectives already in place.

Redefining the regional outlook

Iraq's political thinkers are, albeit unenthusiastically, beginning the long process of redefining their country's regional outlook.

According to Isam Mahbub, director of the Iraqi foreign ministry's first political directorate (America and Western Europe): "Just as the West has been re-evaluating its strategic posture since the end of the cold war, Iraq is undergoing a parallel adjustment at the *regional level, in light of the* transformations which have accompanied the Gulf war." Iraq's new orientation will almost certainly be determined by natural factors such as important, perceived national interest, not by Ba'thist priorities, now defunct, which automatically tied Iraq to the Arab states.

Iraq will probably, in the end, have to compromise between preference and pragmatism. If the current peace negotiations between Israel and its neighbours succeed and a "new Middle East order" is established in the Levant, the Iraqis are likely to accept it as a regional fait accompli. "Once the Palestinian issue is solved, everything will fall into place," said an Iraqi *government analyst, who* subsequently clarified this as meaning an "independent Palestinian state". This condition was confirmed by several other Iraqi officials. Although the Iraqis may have to come to terms with the new reality in the Middle East out of pragmatism, it is likely they will want to keep a respectable distance from it at the same time: "Iraq is not a neighbouring country."

Some analysts see Iran as Iraq's primary preoccupation in the future, although not one of its own choosing. According to one Iraqi government official: "Iranian fundamentalism is gaining momentum throughout the area because of our absence from the regional system. Iraq is still the region's only natural buffer to an explosion of Iranian power." On the other hand Baghdad periodically engages in reconciliation talks with Tehran, in an attempt to present a common front against Washington's "dual containment" policy directed specifically at them both and to put a stop to Iran's infiltration of guerrillas into the southern marshes which straddle its border.

New priorities

Iraqis all believe in the fundamental axiom that Kuwait is an integral part of Iraq, severed by the British to landlock the country by cutting off its access to the Gulf. They also agree, however, that Iraq should not have invaded Kuwait. None of them believes that the Iraqi people deserve to be punished into eternity for an event that Iraqis themselves admit was a mistake. Neither does most of the international community, *which is reportedly* willing to settle for an Iraqi statement unconditionally recognising Kuwait's integrity as sufficient for lifting sanctions at this stage.

"We have no military ambitions towards anyone," said an Iraqi official. "Our first priority is to get sanctions lifted, our second priority is to rebuild our infrastructure and our third is to bring the standard of living of our population back to acceptable levels. Dr. Niama of Baghdad University echoed this: "Iraq will be spending the next 30 years reconstructing itself *and paying off foreign debts* and war reparations."

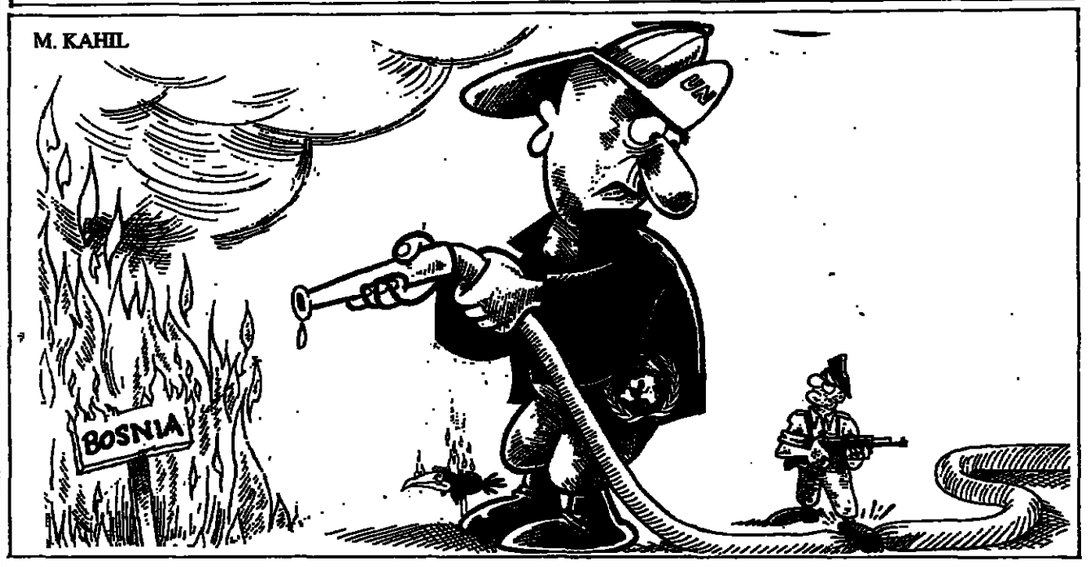
In the meantime, Iraq hopes to rebuild good relations with the rest of the world once sanctions are lifted. Baghdad will "reach the hand of friendship to every state on an equal basis," declared an Iraqi official. He explained that Iraq is not against good relations with Western countries, even the U.S., provided they are founded on "mutual interest" and "mutual respect". Western companies wishing to do business in Iraq will be treated on the basis of when they approach Baghdad, the sooner the better. According to Naji Al Hadithi, the deputy minister of information: "If they come to us now, when we *are still struggling to get out* from under the embargo, they will be held in special esteem for years to come." Right now, it appears, the French are ahead of the game.

The new Iraqi approach to policy-making is essentially one of pragmatism built upon the concept of national interest, a trend which has intensified since the post-war decline of Ba'thist ideology. One Iraqi strategist, in denouncing Washington's perception of Iraq as an "extremist" state, said, "the difference *between Iraq and Iran is* that Iran is inherently expansionist" by virtue of its fundamentalist politics, which Baghdad does not share. Another commented on the same theme: "We are surprised that they perceive us as a 'secular extremist menace'. It is true that we are secular, but above all, we are pragmatic."

When confronted with the question of Iraq's purported desire to "destabilise" the region, this analysts said that it is "the absence of Iraq from regional politics that is destabilising" because without Iraq's secular presence, Iranian fundamentalism will eventually carry the day. He added that Iraq does not derive any strategic benefit from instability for its own sake and never has. But what about the invasion of Kuwait? The Iraqi, who appeared somewhat disturbed by the question, claimed that Baghdad's objectives in Kuwait were "misunderstood" in Washington.

"Whatever we did, we did not do it to injure the Americans or to cut off their supply of oil. We thought we were acting on the basis of our own national interests, but they took it personally. We could not have anticipated the severity of their reaction."

Laura Drake is director of research at the Council for the National Interest, a Middle East policy organisation in Washington. The article is reprinted from the Middle East International.



Haiti leaders complacent in face of military threat

By Jane Arraf
Reuter

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Hot breezes foreshadowing the rainy season blow through the colonial-style corridors of Haiti's military command but Haitian leaders defying the threat of U.S. invasion do not seem to be working up a sweat.

"Here we are — this small, poor Caribbean country and we've managed to stand up to the mighty United States," boasted one military official in the colonnaded headquarters.

In Haiti, the military and paramilitary enforcers rule unchallenged. Visitors walk in and out of the headquarters, unsearched and virtuallay unquestioned.

Westerners and Haitians attribute the bravado to the success of Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras in holding off Washington since 1991, when military leaders deposed elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a bloody coup.

Diplomats and Haitian analysts say Gen. Cedras shows no sign of heeding U.S. and U.N. calls for him to step down, despite the U.N.'s *green light* last month for American military action.

The turning point was the retreat last year of the tank landing ship, the USS Harlan County, in a standoff with the Haitian military, many people say. The Pentagon feared the U.S. marines aboard who were sent to help restore democracy would suffer casualties.

"Cedras must wake up every morning amazed that he's still here," said one Western diplomat.

Since then, military leaders and soldiers have gone out of thier way to predict a bloodbath — a potential nightmare for President Bill Clinton, caught between American indifference towards Haiti and his *threat to use military* force to restore Mr. Aristide.

Haitian civilian militiamen talk of using voodoo and poison to overpower Washington's modern weapons. Others invoke the grisly image last year of American bodies being dragged through the dusty streets of Mogadishu.

"This would be the Somalia of the Caribbean," warned another Haitian security official.

But most Western and Haitian analysts say recent shows of military force for Westerners are only that — a show. Haitian soldiers, including several hundred former U.S. marines, are unlikely to fight marines if they ever land, the analysts say.

The soldiers are "poorly trained, poorly equipped and they've never had to fight. If the marines landed, they would scatter like cockroaches," said one Western diplomat.

Officials, however, maintain that the capital's narrow streets and concrete alleys would render U.S. weapons useless in a campaign to remove the military leaders.

"Their equipment consists of what? Helicopters, tanks, armoured vehicles? In a very narrow street you cannot use them," said Carl Denis, political adviser to President Emile Jonassaint." Therefore, we do not believe the marines would have an advantage in man-to-man, hand-to-hand combat."

Mr. Denis said what he called 40,000 volunteers to the civilian militia would be armed with American-made weapons after they had been trained to defend Haitian sovereignty.

"There used to be 600,000 militiamen of which 100,000 were armed with semi-automatic and automatic weapons so I do believe that a sizeable force can be assembled," he told Reuters this week.

Western estimates of the number of Haitian armed forces are much lower.

Haitian analysts said many of the civilian recruits, some part of a growing number of unemployed, were signing up for protection against increasing repression, to show they were on the military's side.

The government has also used emergency measures to help stifle opposition and hunt down Mr. Aristide supporters, Haitian and Western analysts said. Two weeks ago a state of siege was declared.

The pressure also extends to local radio stations and even musical groups.

At a night club Saturday, a pro-Aristide song played by Haiti's most famous "voodoo rock" group came to an abrupt halt when a man burst onto the stage and ordered them to stop playing the "subversive music," patrons said.

LETTERS

Pursuing paradise

To the Editor:

FACED WITH high unemployment, low salaries and poverty, many young Arabs choose to emigrate. Yes we love our country but economic circumstances forced us to think about leaving. Without money life is not worth living, and since the money is somewhere else, there is no point in staying.

Ideally, we want a country with a strong economy, willing to take new graduates, and preferably does not discriminate against Arabs. Soon, however, most will realise that such a country does not exist. In fact all first world countries have *strong policies to keep* poor Arabs out. Only the rich, elite Arabs are allowed to enter paradise. Confronted with this situation, the poor pioneers use a more daring approach; they think of Nietzche (although he has nothing to do with this) and say: To get a visa everything is permissible.

But: this approach is not for everyone. It's for people who love action. Important requirements: A fake Van Gils suit, an effective dramatic story that contains lies that could be believed, self-confidence, strong acting skills, and good luck. In addition, one needs to know of a frustrated consular officer who wanted to be a political analyst but ended up stamping visas. If all these factors came together and the visa person was in a good mood, these dreamers might have a chance to be residents of heaven.

Of course, life after the visa is not easy. One should expect to live on limited vocabularly for a while. That means no social life till the new language is mastered. And no job until one is prepared to wear a mask that is acceptable to the new culture. Explicitly, one must find a way to get rid of his or her "Arabness" to be recognised as a person in the new society.

As time passes, emigrants get used to being aliens in the new country, some shall make lots of money, while others shall remain poor, but all are condemned forever to be strangers. Well, maybe that is an exaggeration. One thing is sure, however: They have to decide what to do about their old culture which still lives in their hearts. To kill it or not to kill it becomes the new question.

In the end, one wonders whether emigration is worth all that trouble? But there are no easy answser.

Ayman Zanoun,
Amman.

The time is now

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to add my voice to that of Salim Ayyoub in his letter to the editor, "Preparing for a normal life, (Jordan Times August 15)." I am having a lot of trouble advocating such concept of normalcy to my closest friends who say also it is too early and too quick.

Well, the time is now. His Majesty King Hussein has put Jordan in a path that we all know is the best for us. Let us look forward to enhance the living standards of our people. I salute Mr. Ayyoub, for he is ready, as I am, for a new life. Can we hear *from others* who are ready?

Metri Twal,
Amman.

DIST EDITORS PRESS SERVICE, INC.

Hamas warns of Somalia in Gaza

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, on Tuesday warned Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat that he was on the verge of becoming an Israeli "stooge" and warned that Gaza could become "another Somalia" if inter-Palestinian affairs were not dealt with in greater political finesse.

The warning came one day after Palestinian security forces arrested 40 members of the military wing of Hamas, the Izzedine Qassam Brigades, in Gaza.

"Less than three months after arrival the 'liberators' from Tunis have become the 'oppressors,' said Ibrahim Ghosheh, a leading Hamas member and the Amman based spokesman.

"The Qassam brigades are very popular and were among the greatest active opponents of the occupation army," he said. "To violate the privacy of their homes and mistreat them is contrary to the wishes of the Palestinian people," he said in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

"If Arafat chooses to be an ally of Rabin and (Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres, carrying out their policies rather than those of his people, he will end up being a proxy of the Israelis like the military governors of the South Lebanon Army in the occupied zones of South Lebanon," Mr. Ghosheh said.

Warning of civil and political strife in the Gaza Strip, which is home to more than a million mostly poor and downtrodden Palestinians, Mr. Ghosheh said: "We do not want to create a Somalia in Gaza. Arafat knew from day one that the Oslo accord was still born and yet he insists on continuing these policies."

About 200 demonstrators rallied in front of PNA security offices in Deir Al Balah in Gaza on Tuesday protesting the arrest of Hamas activists.

According to Mr. Ghosheh, by Tuesday "only about 10 are still under arrest."

Mr. Ghosheh also lashed out at the drive headed by PNA Justice Minister Freih Abu Midein to collect all weapons from Palestinians who are not members of the PNA security forces.

"How can they take arms away from the people when the occupation is still ongoing, and Israeli settlements are still in the middle of Gaza? Abu Midein's excuse that they have to be registered and licensed is a false pretext, it is the PNA way of following Israeli directives," Mr. Ghosheh charged.

Mr. Ghosheh said that he saw no letting up of friction between the PNA and forces of Palestinian resistance in Gaza but foresaw a "cat and mouse game" between the two.

"Arafat is playing a carrot-and-stick policy with us. He tries to incorporate us without really including us," said Mr. Ghosheh.

"He invited us to join the PNA and offered us four seats which we naturally refused because we do not believe in autonomy — we believe in independence," Mr. Ghosheh said.

Contrary to assertions made by Hamas leaders in Gaza, Mr. Ghosheh said that Hamas would not participate in PNA elections.

Hrawi rejects U.S. call to restrain resistance

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi said on Tuesday that Beirut has turned down a U.S. proposal to curb guerrillas fighting Israel as a precondition for an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Mr. Hrawi, in a speech to representatives of Arab news agencies, said:

"U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher suggested stopping the resistance so that Israel would withdraw but Lebanon's answer was let Israel withdraw and we will deploy the army (in South Lebanon) and the resistance would stop."

Mr. Hrawi did not make clear how Lebanon received the U.S. proposal but Mr. Christopher visited Syria, Lebanon's main power broker, earlier this month.

Lebanon argues it cannot stop guerrillas of Hizbollah and other groups fighting Israeli forces in South Lebanon before the Jewish state withdraws from the buffer zone it occupies there or gives a timetable for such a withdrawal.

Mr. Hrawi also said that Lebanon — which closely coordinates its peace talks moves with Syria — would not sign a separate peace treaty with Israel.

Syria's Al Baath daily, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party, Tuesday urged the international community to curb Israeli attacks in South Lebanon.

"It's regrettable that the U.N. Security Council stands idel before its duties and responsibilities, a matter which makes Israel pay no attention to humanitarian principles and norms,' the newspaper said in an editorial.

The commentary was published as Israeli forces and guerrillas of Hizbollah clashed in South Lebanon.

At least three militiamen of the Israeli-armed South Lebanon Army were killed in fighting Tuesday.

On Monday, Israeli warplanes rocketed hideouts used by Hizbollah.

The guerrillas first attacked the SLA position at Tomat Niha in the Israeli-held zone's eastern sector at 6:30 a.m. (0330 GMT), sources reported.

Three hours later, the SLA post at Zommaraya on the zone's northern edge was hit with machine gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

The SLA casualties were inflicted then, the sources said. But the SLA's Voice of the South Radio station gave a different account.

It said the casualties were caused when guerrillas detonated a remote-controlled roadside bomb in the zone as the militia's Zommaraya commander, Adel Wahhab, drove past at 9:30 a.m.

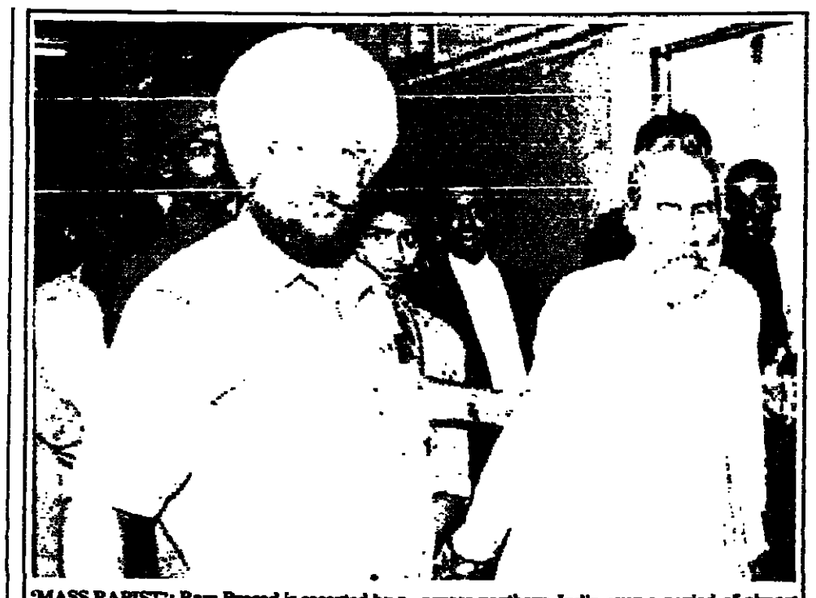
The radio said the victims were all bodyguards escorting Wahhab.

Two other SLA commanders have survived bomb abushes over the last two days.

Al Baath indicated that Israel's military actions in South Lebanon, the only active war front in the Arab-Israeli conflict, will "not bring the region to the hoped-for peace...it will rather be a provocative factor."

In an indirect criticism of the United States for blocking a Lebanese request for a Security Council debate on Israel's repeated air raids and artillery bombardments in South Lebanon, Al Baath said:

"Defending the Israeli assaults under the pretext of safeguarding peace efforts in the Middle East is counterproductive and has encouraged Israel to defy peace and efforts exerted to achieve it."



'MASS RAPIST': Ram Prasad is escorted by a policeman shortly after his arrest Tuesday in New Delhi for allegedly raping hundreds of women and murdering adults and children across northern India over a period of almost ten years. Police sources say the actual number of sexual assaults could be as high as 700 (AFP photo)

Crown Prince, Demirel hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

deavours to bring about a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He said he looks forward to visiting Jordan in the near future.

Prince Hassan and the Turkish president also discussed the situation in the Balkans. Both Jordan and Turkey have peacekeeping troops in former Yugoslavia.

The two sides also discussed the situation in Central Asia. Discussion also centred on the need to respect the rights of all followers of the three monotheistic religions to their holy sites in Jerusalem and respect for political pluralism.

Prince Hassan and the accompanying delegation arrived in Ankara Tuesday afternoon and were received by senior Turkish officials and the Jordanian ambassador to Turkey.

His Majesty King Hussein bade farewell to the Crown Prince upon his departure.

Also bidding farewell to the Crown Prince were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisors, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and senior civil and military officials.

Prince Hassan is accompanied by his son, His Royal Highness Prince Rashed, the Crown Prince's special advisor Mohammad Al Saqqaf and advisor for International Law Aoun Khasawneh.

Jordan, Israel sign trade agreement

(Continued from page 1)

since the agreement will be implemented through arrangements between the Jordanian and Palestinian private sectors.

He said the agreement would be referred to the Jordanian government which will decide on the issue.

He added that the agreement would remain active till there is Palestinian control over the crossing points and customs issues "and we will work on expanding the scope of this agreement in the future because there is a common interest for the Jordanian and Palestinian sides."

Dr. Tarawneh described the Dead Sea negotiations as very serious and detailed, adding that "we did not start from a vacuum because we have a common agenda and sub-agendas ... and the Washington Declaration also stresses the common agenda."

He said that Jordan and Israel have not yet reached an agreement in the field of civil aviation. He said the two sides agreed on the issue of air passages, but still differed over the altitudes of aircraft using Israeli air space. Israel insists on having the aircraft fly at low altitudes which is generally unsafe and makes the aircraft consume more fuel, he said.

Jordanian spokesman Marwan Muasher said the Jordanian side to the border talks meeting presented in detail Jordan's position vis-a-vis the border issue, including locations and areas of occupied Jordanian territories in accordance with the British demarcation line.

The spokesman said the talks also focused on sharing of water and that those discussions were thorny and would take time to produce results.

Dr. Muasher said there were no developments on proposed joint projects in the Jordan Valley.

However, he added a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Dead Sea is one of the most important projects which would be discussed seriously. He stressed that the project had not yet been discussed in detail.

Dr. Muasher said statements by Israeli officials about a Jordanian-Israeli security agreement were not precise.

He said both sides had made some proposals on this subject, and that proposals would be discussed when the security committee finalises the security arrangements.

Dr. Muasher said it is premature to talk about a joint airport for Aqaba and Eilat.

Jordan not trying

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan for suggesting it could play an important regional role in the Middle East peace process.

Jordan and Israel signed a declaration last month ending a 46-year state of war between them as part of moves towards a full peace pact. They opened a joint border crossing on Monday.

Iraq's government, still under punitive international sanctions imposed after its troops invaded Kuwait in 1990, has not officially criticised agreements signed by Israel with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan.

It denied an Israeli Television report suggesting it had made peace overtures towards Israel through a third party.

Asked about Jordan's ties with the PLO, Dr. Majali said the main problem was the lack of coordination between the two.

"The regretable part in the Jordanian-Palestinian relation is the lack of coordination... I think lack of coordination is very harmful, primarily for our Palestinian brothers," he said, adding that the Palestinians, who have not had a state of their own, could benefit from Jordan's government experience.

"A good relationship requires coordination, but regrettably it does not exist," he said.

Palestinian officials said on Saturday the Palestinian National Authority will send a team to Amman to discuss ties strained by the warming of relations between Israel and Jordan.

They said the visit could be followed by a meeting between PLO leader Yasser Arafat and King Hussein.

Asked about a possible meeting between Mr. Arafat and King Hussein, Dr. Majali told Al Khaleej that Palestinians had suggested it "but a date has not been set."

Palestinians were upset when Israel recognised Jordan's role in guardianship of Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem in the declaration it signed with the Kingdom on July 25.

Ties with Syria

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Majali said it was impossible for Jordan to discuss developing water sources and to talk about the future with Israel before the two sides reach an agreement on restoration of Jordanian rights.

Abequas appeal to King for intervention

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The family of Mohammad Abequa, who is suspected of killing his wife Nihal in the U.S. then fleeing to Jordan with the two children, said Tuesday they feared that the children might be handed to their mother's relatives and appealed to His Majesty King Hussein not to yield to what they said was pressure from the American government.

During a press conference, Mohammad Abequa's mother, Samiha, and her two appointed lawyers, Masaud Kheleefi and Saleh Mograbi said they had sent a letter to King Hussein urging him to interfere and decide on the fate of the children.

"I know that Your Majesty has the final word in this issue, and I hope you can do something to settle the conflict," said Mrs. Abequa.

Mr. Abequa, 46, who is in police custody, has confessed to killing his wife in her apartment in New Jersey and fleeing to Jordan with the two children, Lisa, 6, and Sami, 3. He was arrested July 20 and faces first-degree murder and kidnapping charges in Jordanian courts. No trial date has been fixed.

On Thursday the Abequa family handed over the children to the care of the Royal Palace, which put them with Nesime Dokur, the maternal aunt of the two children, in a government supplied apartment.

Nihal Abequa's mother, Mareyem Gussal, and Ms. Dokur are claiming custody of the children. Ms. Dokur came from the United States accompanied by two U.S. lawyers, her daughter and a New Jersey senator secretary, after being invited by King Hussein, in a bid to win the custody of the children.

The children stayed with Mr. Abequa's mother until last Thursday when they were handed over to the authorities.

Mrs. Abequa's lawyers said that their client was the only person along with Ms. Dokur allowed to visit the children any time they want, "But I was startled on Friday when I learned about the new visitation restrictions imposed on me and was told that I needed an appointment to see my grandchildren, while their maternal aunt was allowed to stay with them," said Mrs. Abequa.

The lawyers asserted that the government had violated the agreement and ignored their pleas regarding the visitation issue and other promised guarantees.

"We thought that the security guards were placed to prevent the children from being kidnapped, but to our surprise we learned that the guards were there to prevent the Abequa family from visiting the children," Mr. Mograbi told reporters at the press conference.

"We have requested the Ministry of Interior to explain why they have not abided by their promises and guarantees. The only reply we received was that they will study the matter...," he added.

Adnan Abequa, the suspect's brother, said that officials had promised the family that the children will not be handed over to the Dokurs or the United States without a fair ruling from an Islamic Sharia court.

He told the Jordan Times that no date has been set for a court hearing.

"Since His Majesty has interfered in the issue, we will respect any decision he finds suitable," Mr. Abequa said.

According to the lawyers, who will also defend Mohammad Abequa in the murder case, the custody of the children will be granted to their client Mrs. Abequa, because the two children are Jordanians and the woman resides in Jordan.

They said that Article 154 of the Jordanian Personal Statute Law no. 60 of 1976, stipulates that the custody of the children goes to the mother and if she is not alive it goes for her mother "if she is capable of raising the children inside Jordan," or to the mother of the father.

"In our case, the legal custodian is ... our client because she is capable of raising the children in Jordan," Mr. Kheleefi said.

Two Jordanian attorneys appointed by the Dokur family said in a recent press conference that Ms. Gussal, their client, will be granted custody of the children according to the personal law applied by the Sharia court.

Cocky, defiant Carlos

(Continued from page 1)

tied him up," Mr. Oussedik said. "A plane was sent with members of the DST to pick him up, and he was brought to France."

"There was a deal between the French and Sudanese governments. Carlos was betrayed and sold for a sum much bigger than 30 pieces of silver," Mr. Oussedik told reporters after meeting Carlos. "There was no procedure or extradition. It was a kidnapping."

Mr. Oussedik and Mr. Verges have agreed to defend Carlos.

French and Sudanese officials have refused to give details of Carlos' apprehension.

In announcing the arrest Monday, Mr. Pasqua said Carlos claims to have killed 83 people around the world. "I rejoice that one of the most dangerous terrorists in recent years is now in the hands of justice," he said.

Carlos was helped by numerous countries seeking political gain, and also was supported by former East bloc nations which acted as a "support base where he stocked arms and explosives and sheltered (his followers)," according to the French interior ministry.

Carlos teamed up with some of the world's most radical groups, from Germany's Red Army faction to the Japanese Red Army and the ETA Basque separatist movement in Spain.

He acquired his nom de guerre after British tabloids learned that a copy of the 1971 thriller "Day of the Jackal" was found in one of his London safehouses. The novel tells the story of a killer hired to assassinate French President Charles de Gaulle.

Already sentenced in his absence to life imprisonment by a Paris court in June 1992 for the murder of two French DST counter-intelligence officers, he will face a new trial for that crime before an appeals court made up only of magistrates handling terrorism cases, and will stay in jail regardless of any possible bail pleas.

He also faced charges on the other attacks carried out in France including the car-bomb attack and an attack on a train on which the then mayor of Paris Jacques Chirac was to have been travelling.

File picture dated May 1985 shows German Magdalena Kopp, wife of Carlos (AFP photo)

Mr. Pasqua said Tuesday there was a risk of reprisal attacks against France and warned that it was necessary to "take precautions."

Mr. Pasqua's popularity ratings have shot up since he ordered security checks to be carried out throughout France looking for possible Algerian fundamentalists.

The United States, which last year put Sudan on its list of countries supporting international "terrorism," welcomed Carlos' arrest but said it would not remove Sudan's name from the list of "terrorist" countries.

Sudan's Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shidou called late Monday for the United States to strike the name off.

A mine of potentially explosive information on the links between certain Arab countries and former communist states of eastern Europe, Carlos could be also sought by four other European countries where he carried out attacks: Austria, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands.

Scotland Yard has said it may seek to interview Carlos, the Independent said Tuesday.

British police would not say whether there were outstanding warrants against him, but Carlos is presumed to have been behind a number of attacks in London which he made his base in the early 70s, said the paper.

His most infamous operation on British soil for which he subsequently claimed responsibility in an Arab magazine, was in December 1973 when he tried to assassinate Joseph Edward Sieff, then chairman of Marks and Spencer and vice-president of the Zionist Federation in Britain.

Quoting "Paris intelligence sources" a front-page story in the tabloid Daily Express said "he will expose the role of Arab governments throughout his 20 years of killing, hijacking and bombing" to save his family from assassination.

"They need a safe haven and if he reveals all, it would be their ticket to safety," the paper said.

It added that French authorities had said Western allies, including Britain, who wish to question Carlos in relation to crimes he allegedly committed in their states, would be given access to him.

But as one source said Monday: "There is a very long queue."

PLO presses crackdown

(Continued from page 1)

Palestine, the main opposition group rejects the peace talks with Israel and has the most to gain from a PLO failure.

They have said they will participate in local elections for any civic body that would allow them to influence social and education policy, but would not run in national elections because that would imply acceptance of the Israel-PLO peace pact.

Israel said Tuesday the Palestinian authority's crackdown had gone a long way to safeguarding the peace process.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israeli radio he was "convinced the arrests were serious, the autonomous authorities understood they must act firmly against terrorism."

Israel's delegation head General Danny Rotschild added: "I think any action which is taken by the Palestinian authority against people who are aiming towards destroying the peace process is something to hail on both sides."

Israeli and PLO negotiators failed to wrap up the transfer of civilian powers to Palestinians throughout the West Bank during two days of talks here, top PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said.

They had now agreed to meet again in Cairo next week to reach a settlement, Dr. Shaath added.

Dr. Shaath is also to meet Mr. Peres in the Egyptian port of Alexandria on Wednesday this week.

"We made progress but we were not able to finalise it today, we are hoping further progress will be made next Monday in Cairo," he said.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat agreed to speed up the extension of self-rule during talks here last Wednesday.

But negotiations are stumbling over the issue of taxation. Agreements have already been reached on education, health, tourism and social affairs.

The two sides on Tuesday also discussed elections to a Palestinian self-rule council.

Elections to a national council, or parliament, have been postponed twice and are now scheduled to be held on December 15.

Dr. Shaath said an agreement on elections was "very important to us because it is a very important expression of democracy and popular legitimacy."

Under the terms of the Israel-PLO declaration of principles signed in September, Israeli forces are due to redeploy on the West Bank before the elections.

Israel and Syria said discussing compromise

(Continued from page 1)

the Middle East."

In Damascus, Syria's ruling National Progressive Front (NPF) coalition said Monday that Israel had tried to change the rules of the peace process since it was launched by the Madrid conference in 1991.

"The peace process stumbles against Israel's attempts to deviate from the Madrid formula," the NPF said in a statement, quoted by the official news agency SANA.

This formula is based on United Nations resolutions on Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and the principle of land-for-peace, said the statement issued after an NPF meeting.

The seven-party coalition, which includes President Assad's Baath Party, also accused Israel of "driving a wedge in Arab ranks to achieve its policy based on separate accords" with Arab states.

The NPF stressed "Syria's commitment to the peace process, in accordance with the principles on which it was launched," and said Damascus would continue to work for "a just, global and lasting peace in the region."

The NPF, the highest political authority in Syria, also discussed preparations for Aug. 24 and 25 general elections during its meeting Monday.

U.N. appeals for aid

(Continued from page 12)

security has been disrupted among vulnerable population groups.

In some areas crops have been neglected, and the soaring food prices have particularly affected the poorest populations. The conflict directly affected civilians in Aden, Lahej, Abyan, Shabwa, Taiz, and Hadramaut governorates.

The severe food shortages suffered in conflict-affected areas, combined with increased incidence of diarrhoea, have affected the nutritional status of most children aged 6-24 months.

Water and sanitation services ceased to function in conflict-affected areas.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Oil prices hit 6-year low in first half of '94

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Average crude oil prices in the first half of 1994 have dived to their lowest level in six years despite a recent improvement sparked mainly by an oil strike in Nigeria, official reports said Tuesday.

The price of OPEC's basket of seven crudes averaged $14.58 in the first six months of 1994 compared with $17.6 in the first half of 1993, according to reports by OPEC and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

In the first six months of 1992 the price averaged $17.75, in 1991 $18.22 and in 1990 $16.97 for the same period.

But in the whole of 1990, prices hit an eight-year high of $22.25 because of the Gulf War.

Oil prices were as weak as $13.8 in 1988 and hit a 10-year low of $13.7 in 1986 due to a production war within the then 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

They had shot to a record $34.3 in 1981, when Gulf crude supplies and naval routes were threatened by the Iran-Iraq war.

The Gulf controls more than 60 per cent of the world's crude reserves and around one fifth of the world's oil exports pass through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which Iran threatened to close during the 1980-1988 war.

Oil prices dipped to $13.75 in March, one of their lowest levels in five years.

But they have recovered to above $17 because of the oil strike in Nigeria and OPEC's general compliance with its official output ceiling of 24.52 million barrels per day (b/d).

OPEC oil ministers are due to meet in November to discuss whether to increase the ceiling, which has remained unchanged since September 1993.

Experts said they expected an increase for the first quarter of 1994, when demand is projected to exceed 26 million b/d.

Quota violations by some of the cartel members coupled with expectations about the return of embargo-hit Iraq to the market pushed crude prices to as low as $16.33 in 1993 compared with $18.45 in 1992.

"Oil prices should remain above $18 this year in order to maintain their 1993 level," a Gulf oil expert said. "But I do not think they will reach their 1992 level as they are unlikely to increase to $21."

According to OPEC news agency OPECNA, prices stood at $17.60 at the end of last week and averaged $15.15 this year.

They averaged $13.56 in the first quarter and $15.60 in the second quarter.

Although prices are not likely to exceed their 1993 level, the recent improvement could help Gulf states cut the projected deficit in their budgets.

Predicting weak prices, Saudi Arabia and its partners in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have based their 1994 budgets on a minimum price level of between $13 and $16.

U.S., Japan reach accord on patent rights

TOKYO (R) — Japan and the United States have reached an accord on intellectual property rights, their first sectoral agreement in 13-month-old trade talks, a Japanese foreign ministry official said Tuesday.

The two nations will sign a pact detailing ways to strengthen protection of patents in Washington, the official said in a telephone interview.

"The two nations have reached a substantial agreement on what we should do over the issue...we'll exchange statements confirming the measures to be taken by each side, and sign at 5 a.m. Tokyo time Wednesday (2000 GMT on Tuesday)," he said.

The pact calls for Japan to speed up the process of granting patents by improving filing procedures. Japan would also allow objections to be filled after a patent has been tentatively granted.

The United States would take action to take public the contents of patents granted in order to prevent infringement caused by a lack of information, the official said.

Intellectual property is one of the least contentious issues in Japan-U.S. talks aimed at promoting freer bilateral trade in goods and services. The talks began in July 1993.

U.S. firms have complained that they are losing money from piracy of books, software, films and recordings in many countries, including Japan, China and Russia.

Intellectual property rights is not among the "priority" sectors in the talks. Those sectors are insurance, cars and car parts, and government procurement of medical and telecommunications equipment.

Japan's NHK public television quoted unnamed Japanese official sources as saying it remained uncertain whether the agreement on intellectual property would give impetus to negotiations in other areas.

Arabs earn $5b less from oil exports

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab oil earnings dropped by more than $5 billion in 1993 due to weak crude prices although Kuwait's oil output was sharply higher, an official report said Monday.

The earnings stood at around $92 billion compared with $97.7 billion in 1992, said the report by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

The report, carried by the official Emirates news agency WAM, gave no breakdown but experts said nearly half the revenues were earned by Saudi Arabia, which produced an average 8.095 million barrels per day (b/d) in 1993.

Total Arab crude output stood at nearly 17.5 million b/d, more than a quarter of the world's oil supplies.

The Kuwaiti-based OAPEC said most Arab countries lost revenues due to the fall in oil prices in 1993 to around $16.33 from $18.44 in 1992.

Kuwait's earnings, however, jumped by around 53 per cent because of a surge in crude production to an average 1.88 million b/d in 1993 compared with 918,000 b/d in 1992.

The rise followed a gradual rehabilitation of the Emirate's oil sector which was crippled by the Iraqi invasion forces before they were ejected in February 1991.

Kuwait now produces two million b/d under an OPEC accord and it has indicated it would seek a higher quota as it presses ahead with plans to boost output capacity, including in the Neutral Zone it shares with Saudi Arabia.

Arab oil earnings hit an eight-year high of $102.3 billion in 1990, when crude prices shot above $40 due to a halt in Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil supplies during the war. But the figure remained far lower than the record $212 billion earned by Arabs in 1981.

OAPEC said crude and gas supplies by its 10 members increased to 19.4 million b/d in 1993 from 17.8 million b/d in 1992 mainly because of the rise in Kuwait's output. Consumption of oil products also grew to 2.7 million b/d from 2.4 million b/d.

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THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA'S CELEBRATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY
HANI AL ASHI in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan offers heart-felt congratulations to His Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia, the embassy staff and all the Indonesian people, wishing them continued progress and prosperity on the occasion of Indonesia's Independence Day which falls on Aug.17.
Congratulations to the Indonesian people.

President of Indonesian Republic SUHARTO

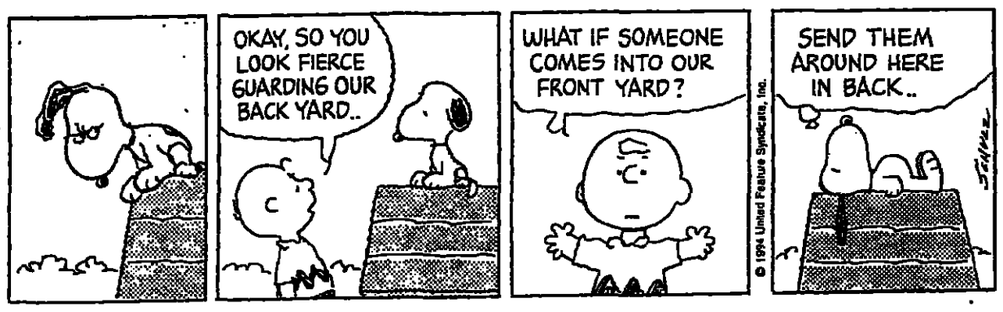
JORDAN DECORATIVE MATERIALS CO. LTD.

President of Indonesian Republic SUHARTO

WISH
THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA
A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
AFFIRMING JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP AND HOPES OF CONTINUED PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

JORDAN FERTILIZER INDUSTRY COORDINATION COMMITTEE
Jordan Phosphate Mines Company
Arab Potash Company
WISH
THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA
A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
AFFIRMING JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP AND HOPES OF CONTINUED PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY
Taher

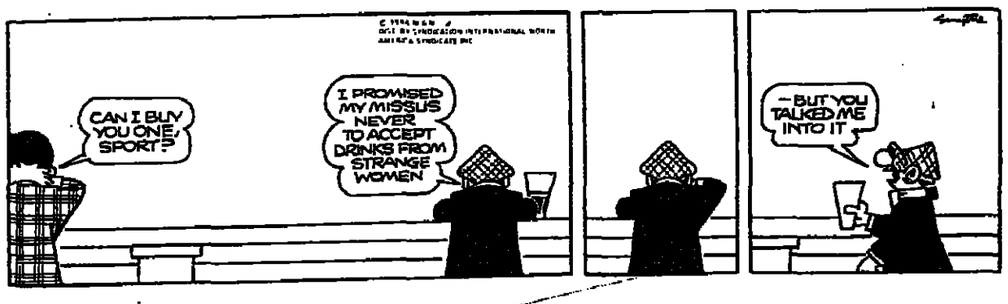
Peanuts



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"Next time we have an argument, I've got 1000 guys on the Internet waiting to help me win!"

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

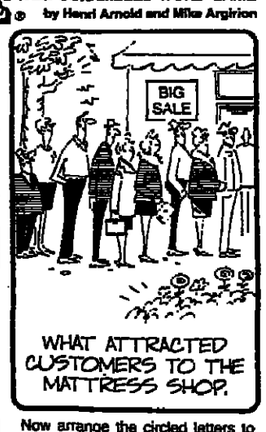
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ARGIN

TEVEN

GROHPE

STEFIA



WHAT ATTRACTED CUSTOMERS TO THE MATTRESS SHOP.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

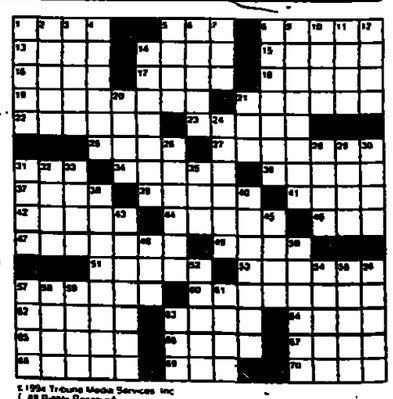
Answer: "_____" _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BURST TOOTH BAMBOO METRIC
Answer: Always on the car phone makes him this — A MOTOR MOUTH

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Hamel



ACROSS
1 Math subj.
5 Parseghian
8 Lovable
13 Wife of Zeus
14 Card game
15 Diacritic
16 — impasse (deadlocked)
17 Cask contents
18 Headless
19 Lively party
21 Buchanan and Cayce
22 Commodores' hit
23 Addams portrayer
25 Hindu discipline
27 Deemed
31 Small flatfish
34 Freeway sign
36 Siphon
37 "— What You Did" (film)
39 Empire
41 Poet Teasdale
42 Narrow piece
44 Toes the line
46 "—, I Can"
47 Ithaca, NY school
49 Clean the deck
51 Meet at the door
53 Bays
57 Washout
60 Ad libbed
62 Stunned
63 Cherry variety
64 Painting subject
65 Navigation system
66 Opera sections
67 Sports gp
68 "— we all?"
69 Vintage auto
70 Scream

DOWN
1 Turns to slush
2 Neural networks
3 Certain Asian
4 All arms and legs
5 Similar
6 — bell (aroused memories)
7 Had food
8 Ateliers
9 Carpentry items
10 Actress Raines
11 Largest dam in Germany
12 Knight and Kennedy
14 Trendy one
20 Ruinous fate
21 Biblical verb ending
24 Greek markers
26 Small space
28 Colorless
29 Fabled loser
30 "— the night"
31 Record
32 About
33 Roseanne, formerly
35 Talk
38 Condor's measure
40 "Wind Beneath —"
43 Out of each hundred
45 Warbled
48 Zodiac sign
50 Elongated fish
52 Couple of times
54 Draw out
55 — wave
56 Piler
57 FDR's dog
58 Skorsky
59 Swiss river
61 Keen on
63 Lush setting?

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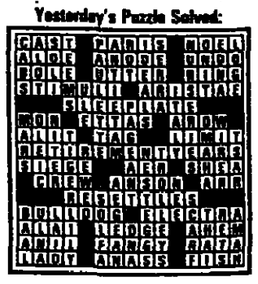
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 667171

Financial Markets — Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 15/8/94	Tokyo Close Date 16/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5415	1.5395
Deutsche Mark	1.5522	1.5572
Swiss Franc	1.3030	1.3062
French Franc	5.3265	5.3465**
Japanese Yen	100.13	100.16
European Currency Unit	1.2240	1.2197**

USD Per STG.
*Tokyo Opening is 9:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates — Date: 16/8/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.43	4.68	5.12	5.62
Sterling Pound	4.93	5.43	5.87	6.62
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.75	4.81	5.06
Swiss Franc	4.00	4.12	4.31	4.43
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.75	6.06
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.06	2.12	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.93	6.06	6.25	6.56

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 m. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin — Date: 16/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0682	1.0735
Deutsche Mark	0.4458	0.4480
Swiss Franc	0.5312	0.5339
French Franc	0.1299	0.1305
Japanese Yen	0.6930	0.6965
Dutch Guilder	0.3968	0.3988
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0435	0.0437
Belgian Franc	*****	******

Per 100

Other Currencies — Date: 16/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8270	1.8400
Lebanese Lira*	0.040400	0.041835
Saudi Riyal	0.1850	0.1861
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3400
Qatari Riyal	0.1896	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7860	1.8020
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma*	0.2675	0.3135
Cypriot Pound	1.3775	1.4985

Per 100

Dubai Islamic Bank moves to the top of the league

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — The Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) is to double its capital to become the world's biggest Islamic bank despite being affected by the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, a senior DIB official said Tuesday.

The bank has invited its shareholders to buy new shares it will issue next month to double its capital to 420 million dirhams ($114.4 million), accounts department director Hussein Al Rifai, told AFP.

A total of 2.1 million shares are to be issued at a cost of 100 dirhams ($27.2) each.

"Subscription will begin on Sept. 1 and will last for one month. We expect the shares to be subscribed in less than a month given the strong financial position of the bank and the confidence in it," he said.

"The increase will give birth to the biggest Islamic Bank in the world in terms of capital and the second in terms of assets. Currently, the Saudi Faisal Islamic Bank is the biggest in the world."

The Dubai government owns 12 per cent of DIB while the Kuwaiti government has a 10 per cent stake and the rest is held by private investors.

DIB did not distribute profits to its shareholders for three years because of the BCCI crisis but it approved a cash dividend of six per cent in 1993, when net profits stood at 17 million dirhams ($4.63 million).

Bank officials said they expected net profits to surge to 28 million dirhams ($7.62 million) in 1994 due to an economic upturn in the region.

Mr. Rifai conceded DIB was dealing with BCCI before it was shut down by the Bank of England in July 1991 for allegations of massive fraud said to have involved more than $10 billion.

But he defended the dealings as merely commercial transactions that did not include interest, banned by Islam as usury.

"We do not deny that we had dealings with BCCI. We did this because it is owned by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government and there was no Islamic bank in London to deal with," he said.

"BCCI was like a representative for us. Our transactions covered imports and exports as well as real estate investment. We are now waiting to see how much we will regain from our money with the BCCI but we have fully recovered from the problem by covering our losses from provisions and profits."

Bankers earlier said DIB assets with BCCI were estimated at 300 million dirhams ($81.7 million) and it is expected to recover between 30 and 40 per cent of the sum under a compensation offer by the UAE emirate of Abu Dhabi, which owned 77 per cent of BCCI. The $1.8 billion offer is awaiting approval by courts in England, Luxembourg and Grand Caymans.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 16/08/1994
MORNING SESSION

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	92,090	186.500	186.000	186.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	5,304	4.450	4.420	4.420
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	29,355	51.500	51.500	51.500
BANK OF JORDAN	866	4.150	4.150	4.150
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	40,183	2.310	2.350	2.160
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	4,132	2.970	2.960	2.950
THE HOUSING BANK	7,120	5.350	5.400	5.390
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	9,479	3.080	3.070	3.070
JORDAN GULF BANK	21,275	1.840	1.850	1.850
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	82,146	3.920	3.920	3.930
BEIRUT BANK	3,912	3.910	3.910	3.920
ARIZ KIMAL SAVING&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1,840	3.650	3.680	3.680
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	26,820	1.800	1.800	1.800
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	45,530	2.240	2.290	2.230
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	2,613	1.750	1.770	1.780
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	5,767	5.550	5.500	5.550
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	154,373	3.350	3.400	3.500
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	14,063	2.940	3.000	3.020
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	195	1.350	1.300	1.300
MACHINARY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	1,930	0.980	0.970	0.960
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	110,242	2.300	2.310	2.310
ARAB INTERN. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	35,810	4.780	4.970	3.800
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	5,400	1.420	1.430	1.460
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	34,558	2.970	2.990	2.970
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	22,772	10.000	10.000	10.000
JORDAN TANNING	4,065	7.500	7.400	7.700
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	7,646	6.400	6.350	6.350
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	54,864	7.500	7.430	7.460
THE PUBLIC MINING	3,475	2.900	2.950	2.950
SPINNING & WEAVING	18,550	2.910	2.900	2.900
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	1,140	2.830	2.850	2.850
DAR AL DWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	9,488	17.450	17.250	17.250
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	3,588	7.900	7.950	8.000
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	1,820	4.560	4.550	4.550
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	70,166	3.060	3.130	3.150
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	17,918	1.900	1.900	1.910
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	4,903	5.450	5.450	5.450
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES	7,840	5.100	5.050	5.100
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	522	0.950	0.930	0.950
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	9,360	6.550	6.550	6.550
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	7,578	2.760	2.740	2.750
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	20,764	3.030	3.020	3.050
KNOWZEN INVESTMENT	1,938	2.040	2.060	2.080
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	8,570	4.740	4.700	4.700
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	156,406	3.030	3.070	3.070
GRAND TOTAL	1,122,017			

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 309060
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : JD 666321

Saudi Arabia issues $280m floating-rate notes

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is issuing $280 million in five-year floating-rate notes within the Arab Gulf states, Saudi-based bankers said.

Bankers in the kingdom said $180 million had already been placed with Saudi banks before the issue went to market and financial institutions in other Arab Gulf states were also showing an interest.

The notes are dollar-denominated, have a five-year maturity and are priced at 25 basis points over the three-month London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (Libor), the guide used in world markets for borrowing by banks.

"It's a short-term cash management instrument which would appeal to banks in time of rising interest rates. There's a good spread over LIBOR, but not overly generous," one said.

"There's a reasonable amount of dollar income in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states," the banker said. The six GCC states, all of them oil producers, are Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi British Bank is underwriting and managing the offer of the notes, which are book-entry only. The Riyadh-based bank will make a market in the instruments, the bankers said.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) already issues treasury bills with maturities of up to one year and government development bonds of up to five years. Monday's issue is the first of floating-rate notes in the Gulf.

The Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said in its Monday issue that bankers in Saudi Arabia were speculating that the issue might be followed by another to take the total value up to a round number such as $500 million.

The newsletter also reported that the cash-strapped kingdom had decided against deferring repayments on its only foreign loan and will pay the next $900 million instalment on its due date of Aug. 22.

MEES said a week ago that, after making the first due payment on its $4.5 billion balancce of payment loan in May, Saudi Arabia was seeking to defer for two years the remaining three quarterly payments.

MEES attributed the change of heart to higher than expected oil prices and to the insistence of some creditor banks, particularly the French, on better terms for the deferral.

"The government's liquidity problems have eased during the last few weeks as a result of firmer oil prices... with much more money available, the Saudis could afford to dispense with wrangling over the terms of the deferral," it said.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. $1.00 costs	1.3807/17	Canadian dollar
	1.5580/70	Deutschemarks
	1.7488/98	Dutch guilders
	1.3071/81	Swiss francs
	32.10/14	Belgian francs
	5.3415/65	French francs
	1.592/75	Italian lire
	100.49/59	Japanese yen
	7.8031/31	Swedish crowns
	6.8505/55	Norwegian crowns
	6.1780/30	Danish crowns
One sterling	$1.5386/96	
One ounce of gold	$376.65/377905	

Computer makers battle for bigger market share in Arab Gulf countries

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Computer giants from Asia, the United States and other countries have stepped up the race to grab a bigger share of the Gulf market, prompted by rapid growth in the hardware sector and growing protection against piracy in the oil-rich region.

Some leading world firms are increasing investment to produce Arabic software programmes to cater for the needs of the region, where rapid economic and industrial expansion is creating a vast market for computers.

Local dealers estimate sales of hardware and software in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) at more than $1 billion a year and the figure is expected to increase steadily in the future.

"The market is growing by more than 10 per cent a year as the region is racing to keep abreast of computer developments in industrial countries," said Husam Hatum, regional manager of Gulf Business Machines company.

"There is strong competition in the market and more and more companies are joining in," he pointed out. "So far, the United States is dominating the market of main frames and mini-computers while Taiwan is controlling the market of personal computers. Concerning Japan, its presence in the Middle East is still weak."

More than 1,000 companies from the United States, Taiwan, Japan, Germany, France, India, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong will participate in an international computer fair in Dubai on Oct. 29.

Iran, Egypt and other countries, which have no major computer industries, will display software programmes at the exhibition, the biggest computer fair in the Middle East, according to organisers of the annual event.

"The exhibition is designed to introduce the latest in computer technology, which is developing very fast. It also includes some deals," said Nidal Abu Zaki of the Dubai World Trade Centre, which is organising the fair.

The United States is again dominating the Gulf Information Technical Exhibition while several companies are participating for the first time.

Mr. Zaki said computer companies were taking advantage of the open Gulf market and business growth to boost production. Many world companies have started to produce Arab programmes to face growing demand in the region, he said.

He said such competition had sharply depressed prices of both hardware and software and they could go down further.

"There are dramatic developments in the computer market. Every six months you find new products and many companies are vying in this field. This has prompted many of them to set up bases in the region," he said.

Dealers said Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, had the biggest computer market in the GCC.

It is followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait.

Such a market is also growing fast in the other GCC states — Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — due to development in their industries, economy, banking and other services sectors.

Most GCC states have enacted laws on protection of copyrights and intellectual property following pressure from the United States, whose companies have complained about heavy losses due to widespread piracy.

The remaining GCC members are in the process of drafting similar legislation.

Mr. Zaki said he expected such laws to boost sales of software in the region and encourage international companies to increase production. He said the software market currently ranged between $75 million and $100 million a year.

"The figure is too small compared with the hardware market. This is because it does not include piracy sales," he said. "But it will sharply grow as regional countries begin to enforce protection laws. This will encourage world companies to increase investment to develop new programmes in Arabic and other languages."

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Italian Grand Prix reinstated

PARIS (R) — The Italian Grand Prix was reinstated on Monday following high-level contacts between Formula One's ruling body and the Italian government.

Three days after cancelling the race because of doubts over whether the Italian authorities would carry out safety work to the track, the International Motoring Federation (FIA) accepted a temporary solution which changes the line of a dangerous curve.

The Monza race, which is the highlight of the Formula One season for Italian race fans and caused an uproar when cancelled, will go ahead as scheduled on September 11.

The FIA said the famous sweeping Lesmo curve would be altered to make it more acute and slow down the speeds.

"The changes will make the corner tighter and slow speeds down considerably," said FIA spokesman Martin Whittaker. "Cars would take the corner at about 260kph before, but will be reduced to about 100kph."

The race had been in doubt since Italian authorities refused to cut down about 100 ancient trees in a royal park to widen the run-off area needed to meet new safety specifications.

But following a meeting on Saturday in Cannes between FIA President Max Mosley, leading driver Gerhard Berger, Italian Cabinet Under-Secretary Gianni Letta, President of the Lombardy Region Paolo Arrigoni and the Italian Automobile Club, a temporary solution for this year's race was hammered out.

Letta sent a message to Mosley expressing "satisfaction on behalf of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and millions of Italian sports fans" for his decision to reinstate the race, Rai state television reported on Monday.

Monza officials have also agreed to add a large gravel run-off, take down a grandstand and remove 10 trees, which will be replanted in the park to appease environmentalists.

Work is expected to start on modifying the circuit as early as Tuesday.

Safety has become a priority in Formula One after Ayrton Senna of Brazil and Austrian Roland Ratzenberger died earlier this year at the San Marino Grand Prix at the Italian circuit of Imola.

FIA and the drivers demanded changes to the Lesmo curves but Lucia Gremmo, the superintendent of cultural heritage for the Milan area, had opposed any solution to make the Monza track safer which involved felling centuries-old trees.

On Thursday, Arrigoni said: "Berlusconi's reputation is riding on his ability to defend the Grand Prix," while Monza Mayor Aldo Moltifiori said "it is entirely the government's fault."

And as the public wrangle among Italian politicians and race organisers continued without ever looking like producing a solution, FIA lost patience and announced on Friday that the 65-year-old race had been removed from the calendar.

Letta suggested building chicanes to reduce speed, but that was unacceptable to FIA, and with the dispute bringing the resignation of the mayor of Monza and reflecting badly on Mr. Berlusconi, the prime minister took the unusual step of dispatching his cabinet undersecretary to France.

After several hours of talks on the French Riviera, FIA finally agreed to the Italians' solution, but in a statement from their Paris headquarters on Monday they said it was acceptable "on the basis that it is for 1994 only."

FIA would not expand on what Monza will have to do to win approval for next season, but it is believed they need the new changes detract from the character of the famous circuit and that the corner is no longer challenging enough.

WHEEL POWER — World champion Florian Rousseau of France (left) retained his one-km time trial to take the first gold of the championships. He clocked one minute 03.163 seconds to beat American Erin Hartwell (middle) by six-tenths of a second and Australian Shane Kelly, last year's silver medallist, who came in third. Twice world sprint champion Michael Huebner of Germany fought back into the second round via a second-chance heat after losing to Latvian Vlesturs Berzins in the first round. He beat Belgian Erik Schoefs.

Top referee admits to extra pressure

LONDON (AFP) — Top referee Philip Don admitted here on Monday that officials will be under the spotlight as never before this season.

Don, the only English referee at this summer's World Cup, was in charge of Sunday's Charity Shield at Wembley, where Manchester United beat Blackburn 2-0 in a game of seven bookings.

But schoolteacher Don insisted he would have booked all seven players — four from Blackburn and three from United — last season as well.

After the game Blackburn boss Kenny Dalglish was critical of the refereeing and warned about taking the element of commonsense away from referees.

But Don said: "Not every bad tackle is a cautionable offence. The referee has to use his commonsense. It is very clear. You cannot take that away while it is still in the laws that decisions are down to the referee's opinion.

"If you took that out, then we would become like robots. They talk about players being under pressure — but yesterday I felt under real pressure thanks to these directives from FIFA.

"All four of us — even the reserve official — were under the microscope out there. It was being televised live, would be seen in many countries and it was on the radio. We were very aware of our responsibilities."

But Don pointed out: "I could have sent three people off but I exercised commonsense. I didn't want to see a proliferation of red and yellow cards.

"I think all that has happened is that over the last few years we have become a bit relaxed about the laws."

Olympic foes face semifinal duel

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Britain's Olympic champion Chris Boardman and German Jens Lehmann, the man he beat in Barcelona, face a showdown in the semifinals of 4,000 metres world cycling pursuit championships.

The two rivals scored comfortable quarter-final victories on Monday, with Boardman posting the fastest time of the round despite a stomach bug and a broken spoke.

Boardman's first run was halted after half a lap because he broke a front-wheel spoke, but the Briton, who had been suffering with intestinal trouble, raced ahead after the restart to beat Spain's Juan Martinez by nearly four seconds.

"I was scheduled to try for a 4:28 time but I was feeling so much better I gave it a go," he said.

He clocked four minutes, 25.801 seconds, the fastest of the quarter-finals that also saw the dismissal of last year's world silver medallist Philippe Ermenault of France.

He was beaten by compatriot Francie Moreau the 1991 world professional champion who meets Guido Fulst of Germany in Tuesday's semifinals.

World champion Graeme Obree of Britain was sensationally disqualified in Monday's qualifying round after posting the third-fastest time.

After eight hours of argument over saddle sizes on Sunday, Obree ran into trouble midway through his qualifier Lith Moreau when he was eliminated for "betraying the spirit" of rule 49' which relates to riding styles.

Obree said: "I was told one hour before the start that there must be a certain clearance between my chest and the handlebars. No distance was given, and it was like a high jump without the bar. It is all pretty vague, but I knew that they were out to get me."

Jackson attempts own world record

ZURICH (R) — World high hurdles champion Colin Jackson plans a further stride towards the elusive perfection he is constantly seeking with an attempt on his own world record at Wednesday's Zurich Grand Prix.

Jackson retained his European title last week in Helsinki and should successfully defend his Commonwealth crown in Victoria, Canada, next week.

But although championships are important, his whole season has evolved around the Zurich meeting, the richest and most prestigious on the Grand Prix circuit.

Physically, despite a couple of injuries, Jackson believes he is in comparable shape to last year when he set the world record at the Stuttgart World Championships.

Technically, he thinks he has improved following intensive work on his approach to the final four barriers.

As added incentive, twice Olympic champion Roger Kinldom, who set a world record here in 1989, is in the field along with another American veteran in three times world champion Greg Foster.

Two other world record attempts have been signalled in a meeting which this year boasts a budget of around $4,000,000.

The outrageously talented Nouredin Morceli, holder of world marks at 1,500 and 3,000 metres as well as the mile, steps up to the 5,000 while Jackie Joyner-Kersee attacks the women's long jump record.

No pacemaker has been nominated for the 5,000 but the field contains a group of the top Kenyans plus Olympic 10,000 champion Khalid Skah.

"There are a number of people in the race who could break the word record," Morceli said.

The meeting should also decide once and for all who is the world's number one male 100 metres sprinter this year.

All the big names have entered with the exception of Carl Lewis and the size of the entry list has necessitated three heats and a final.

Two rounds will suit Britain's world and olympic champion Linford Christie who missed a confrontation with the top Americans at the St. Petersburg goodwill games because of a hamstring injury.

Christie might not be as sharp as he would like but with some jsutice he thinks he is still the strongest man in the field.

But Tuesday may just prove the day Dennis Mitchell comes of age.

Mitchell would dearly like to reheat his Goodwill Games victory over fellow-Americans Leroy Burrel and Andre Cason and prove he is capable of winning.

Parma's title hopes depend on Asprilla, Baggio

ROME (R) — Parma's hopes of capping a meteoric rise to the top of Italian soccer by winning a first league title depend on the fortunes of two stars who experienced vastly different World Cup fortunes.

Colombian Faustino Asprilla — arguably the biggest flop of the World Cup — and Italy star Dino Baggio, who enhanced his reputation as a combative midfielder, have the talent to make Parma the main threat to AC Milan's bid for a record-tying fourth league title.

But Parma coach Nevio Scala knows neither player has shown his true colours in the league — and must be wondering if either one ever will.

Asprilla, 24, a sleek and gifted striker, faces a make-or-break season at the helm of Parma's attack after failing to live up to high expectations at the World Cup.

Baggio, a tall midfielder who scored key goals as Italy took the runners-up spot to Brazil in the U.S., must now prove he can perform week in week out in the Serie A after his summer move from Juventus.

Troubled by a series of injuries, Baggio had a poor season with Juventus last year. Parma are his fourth club in five seasons and he has never really reproduced his Italy form at league level.

Parma, a second-division club just five years ago, have sky-rocketed to the top of European soccer after winning the Italian Cup in 1992, the Cup Winners' Cup in 1993 and the European Supercup in 1994.

They finished fifth last year — nine points behind Milan — after failing to maintain sparkling early form.

As they prepare for another assault on the title, Asprilla and Baggio may hold the key to the final crowning glory of Parma's rise, but Scala can rely on a galaxy of stars.

"I've never had a better group of players," Scala said recently referring to deals which have given him a host of international stars to pick from.

Defence looks the strongest department with Italy defender Roberto Mussi, signed from Torino during the World Cup, facing a battle for a first-team Jersey.

Portuguese defender Fernando Couto, who signed from Porto at the end of last season, complements a backline including sweeper Lorenzo Minotti and Italy team mate Luigi Apolloni.

Alberto di Chiara and Antonio Benarrivo, who had a fine World Cup, promise speed on both flanks.

The midfield also looks as strong as any in the Serie A.

Baggio, set to direct play between Swedish World Cup star Tomas Brolin and former Italy international Massimo Crippa, says he is a natural midfielder and complaints of being misused as a defender at Torino, Inter Milan and Juventus.

"I was plagued by injury last year and never got into the groove," the 23-year-old said recently. "Parma have promised I will play at midfield and not as a defender, where Juventus kept me and where I am not happy."

The arrival of striker Marco Branca, who scored 14 goals for relegated Udinese last year, has bolstered the attack and will ensure Asprilla and Sardinian Gianfranco Zola face competition for their starting roles.

The Colombian, scorer of seven goals in his debut season and 10 last year, has been criticised for selfish play and lack of killer instinct in the area.

Some players, let alone fans, see Asprilla, who cut his soccer teeth at Nacional Medellin, as the sole question mark hanging over an otherwise solid squad.

"Faustino wasn't consistent last year and a true champion cannot allow himself such ups and downs," said Brolin.

"We have a 50 per cent chance of winning the title. If Asprilla comes through, then the entire squad will reap the benefits," he said.

Scala has said he wants Asprilla, who has had to defend himself from rumours of heavy drinking and wild behaviour off the field, more concentrated during training.

Asprilla, who quit international soccer after the murder of team mate Andres Escobar for scoring an own goal in Colombia's early exit from the World Cup, has vowed to prove his mettle.

"I had a bad season last year," he confessed recently. "But I'm more ready than ever to prove I can rise to the occasion."

If Parma win their first title, Asprilla will dedicate it to Escobar, the defender who was shot dead outside a restaurant in his native Medellin.

"I want to play great soccer, to win the title and dedicate it to Escobar and his family."

Carr awaits reversal of fortune

VICTORIA, British Columbia (R) — Scotland's featherweight boxing medal prospect Brian Carr is hoping for a change of luck when he steps into the ring at the Commonwealth Games.

At the recent World Cup in Thailand, the Glaswegian was forced to withdraw after being asked to fight olympic champion Joel Casamayor only two hours after arriving.

Carr was unfortunate to be beaten in his first fight at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics by the eventual silver medallist from Spain, and is now waiting impatiently for the chance to show his true talent in a Scottish vest.

"I'm due a good draw," said Carr, a five-times Scottish champion and a gold medallist at the Commonwealth invitation tournament in Victoria last year.

"In Bangkok I was picked up from the airport and a couple of hours later I was called up to fight. I was too tired and just had to treat the trip as a training camp."

"At Barcelona I lost to the Spaniard in a messy fight, but this time I'm feeling very confident.

"I've fought with all the top boys and done really well against them. I think I'm better than the other people here."

The all-important draw for Carr is on Thursday and national coach Tom Brown insists his whole squad, part of the biggest team Scotland have ever sent abroad, are in perfect shape.

Before they left home the team had several sparring sessions with the Saudi national team to give the fighters more exposure.

Players' union boss condemns foreign influx

LONDON (AFP) — Players' union chief Gordon Taylor hit out here on Monday at the influx of cheap foreign talent flooding into the English game.

Taylor warned that big-money transfers, like Chris Sutton's 5 million pounds move from Norwich to blackburn, were inflating the market, forcing less well-off clubs to look abroad for cheaper options.

This increasing trend, Taylor warned, could be damaging to the long-term interests of the England team.

Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, suggested a cap on transfer fees to end the spiralling inflation that he sees as threatening the national game.

"I am not a harbinger of doom — but in Italy every team has to have eight Italians in it," said Taylor. "We don't have that rule here, and that is a major problem. Only half of Manchester United's team in the Charity Shield were English. If the money goes abroad, and doesn't go to clubs like Crewe, who groomed David Platt, or Torquay, who produced Lee Sharpe, then the long-term consequences for our game could be detrimental. It will become like our cricket — we can no longer produce our own fast bowlers.

"Players who come in need to be regular internationals, they need to be in the top band of wages, and the fee needs to reflect a world-class player."

Konyshev wins first stage of Netherlands Tour

NIEUWEGEIN, Netherlands (R) — Russian Dmitry Konyshev secured his first win of the season when he outsprinted Luca Scinto on Monday to clinch the opening stage of the Tour of the Netherlands, which was marred by a crash involving a motorcycle outrider.

Konyshev and Italian Scinto succeeded in breaking away from the pack, led for 85 kilometres of the 170 kilometres stage from Breda to Nieuwegein, and held off the chasing riders to finish 23 seconds ahead.

The stage had to be shortened by seven kilometres after a motorcycle escort was involved in a serious collision with a sponsor's vehicle three-quarters of the way through. The motorcyclist was taken to hospital, but his injuries were not immediately known.

Konyshev and Scinto at one stage built up a lead of three minutes and 25 seconds before the peloton, led by a mixed team of Dutch racers, fought to claw back the gap.

Tour of France green Jersey winner Djamolidine Adboujaparov of Uzbekistan proved his sprinting qualities again when he won the stage sprint and ended third overall as he led the pack home.

Konyshev wears the leaders' orange Jersey in Tuesday's 180-km second stage from Nieuwegein to Ede. The tour ends on August 19 in Valkenburg.

Benetton claim fuel blaze caused by faulty part

BUDAPEST (R) — A faulty part in the refuelling rig used by Benetton caused the flash fire which engulfed Jos Verstappen at the German Grand Prix, the team said on Sunday.

In a statement which contradicted the claims made by Intertechnique, the French manufacturers of the refuelling equipment used by all the teams, Benetton said "the most likely cause of the fire at Hockenheim was a faulty part in the refuelling valve."

Benetton have claimed consistently that they do not believe the removal of a filter from their rig was the cause of the fire, as Intertechnique and the International Motoring Federation (FIA) said in statement last week.

Benetton have been summoned to appear before the FIA's World Motor Sport Council on Oct. 19 to defend themselves against a charge that they illegally and deliberately removed the filter.

The team also faces an appeal on behalf of German Michael Schumacher against a two-race ban for ignoring a black flag at the British Grand Prix.

Benetton's latest statement in a war of words with governing body FIA said that the Independent Accident Analysis Company which the team invited to look into the accident had been refused drawings of Intertechnique's valve components.

Intertechnique claimed confidentiality of design, said the Benetton statement.

Benetton said they were alerted when Intertechnique personnel arrived in Hungary "and started to change parts of the refuelling valves that Intertechnique supply to the formula one teams."

The statement added: "When engineers inspected the parts that were being removed, they discovered that these were a different size to the same component in Jos Verstappen's fuel rig used in Hockenheim."

It went on: "All of the same parts removed from the fuel valves of six different formula one teams had been found to have five times the operating clearance of the same part removed from Jos Verstappen's fuel rig.

"By inspecting parts from the Benetton fuel valve, and those from other supportive formula one teams, Benetton have concluded that the faulty part was not to the correct specification and this could have caused the valve to jam during the refuelling process at Hockenheim."

The possibility that a faulty part or parts in the Intertechnique rig may have caused the fireball which engulfed Dutchman Verstappen's car was not mentioned in statements from the FIA and Intertechnique last week

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 3
♥ K J 5
♦ K Q 6 4
♣ Q 5 2

WEST
♠ 7 4 2
♥ A 9 2
♦ J 7 3
♣ 9 8 4 3

EAST
♠ J 8 6
♥ Q 10 8 6 3
♦ 10 9 5 2
♣ 10

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 5
♥ 7 4
♦ A 8
♣ A K J 7 6

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: ?

The standard of play in the 41st European Championship, especially in the Women's Pairs won by Bep Vriend and Carla Arnolds of the Netherlands, was especially high.

Here's a hand where only women's intuition could have arrived at the winning play.

Vriend, North, and Arnolds arrived at a reasonable six-club contract on the auction shown. South's takeout of three no trump to four clubs was a slam try and North, with a good fit and fair primes, cooperated with a four-diamond cue-bid. Although North discouraged thereafter by bidding four no trump, South pressed on to slam.

On lead was Benedicte Cronier of France. The auction made it clear that whatever heart strength North-South possessed would be in dummy, so she found the devilish lead of the two of hearts! We would hazard a guess that 999 of a thousand declarers would finesse dummy's jack, lose to the queen and then have the defenders cash the ace of hearts for a one-trick set.

Arnolds was made of sterner stuff. She spent a few moments studying the opening lead, then called for the king from dummy! All the tricks came rolling in.

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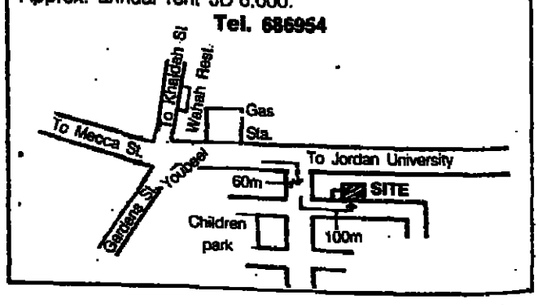

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Australians feel pressure before Commonwealth games

VICTORIA, British Columbia (R) — Australian swimmers are under pressure from within their own team as well as their rivals before Commonwealth Games competition starts on Friday.

As overwhelming favourites in the pool, the Australians are being targeted by the other swimming nations as the squad to beat.

But they also have to watch their backs for their own teammates could deprive them of a coveted place in the line-up for the world championships in Rome next month.

"Whoever gets the bronze in the 1,500 is likely to feel really upset," said world record holder Kieren Perkins on Monday.

Three top Australian are entered for the 1,500 metres freestyle, but only two will qualify for Italy.

Olympic champion Perkins said he remained good friends with Olympic silver medallist Glen Housman and the world short course champion Dan Kowalski out of the water.

But once in the pool the rivalry became intense.

"This is probably going to be one of the most high pressure scenarios for us," said Perkins, beaten by Kowalski at the Australian Open championships last March.

But despite the lure of the world championships, Perkins still considers the Commonwealth Games the more important competition.

"It's one of Australia's favourite meets and what I've always strived for," he said.

Chief coach Don Talbot said expectations were always high for Australian swimming. "We get a lot of pressure — the public always thinks we should be better," he said.

The Australian team have tagged the current tour, taking swimmers directly from Victoria to Rome, as "the big one."

"We'll be really trying for both competitions," Talbot said. "I believe with experience of the first meet we can motivate ourselves better for the second," he said.

Carlos Parreira

I'm not stubborn, says Parreira

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Carlos Alberto Parreira, who guided Brazil to victory in the World Cup last month, denied on Monday that he was stubborn and that outspoken striker Romario had been given special treatment during the competition.

Parreira, frequently accused of stubbornness during the World Cup for refusing to change his line-up added that the public was "an echo without its own opinion."

"I'm not stubborn, I'm insistent," Parreira, who has now taken charge of Spanish side Valencia, said in an interview with the daily newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo.

He said he had heated arguments with a health insurance company which wanted him to appear in a television commercial saying he was stubborn.

"I told them: 'I'm not doing that even for a million dollars'," he said.

Parreira eventually appeared saying the words: "I'm persistent, I've said it from the start," two of his favourite catchphrases during the World Cup.

He denied there had been special treatment for tempestuous striker Romario..

"At no moment was Romario a star. When (Diego) Maradona goes to the cup he takes a psychologist, dietist, his wife and children, all staying in the team's headquarters. Romario never demanded privileges."

Parreira blamed the eternal criticism of his management, which began with a 2-0 qualifying defeat in La Paz and continued until the day of the final, on press coverage.

"The population is an echo without its own opinion, it just reflects what it hears," he said.

Commonwealth Games magnet for activists

VICTORIA, Canada (AFP) — The friendly games are under fire, but Commonwealth Games organisers hope their focus on native cultures and environmental concerns will neutralise protests planned for the 11-day event.

The environmental group Greenpeace is planning demonstrations to protest the exploitation of the rain forests of Vancouver Island, where the games are taking place.

Organisers have billed the games as environmentally friendly. They have set up a highly publicised recycling programme and their mascot is a cartoon killer whale.

But Greenpeace spokesman Tamara Stark called those efforts "greenwashing."

"It's disturbing and doesn't pain an accurate picture of what is going on," she said. "The war on the woods is continuing, and we'll be doing everything we can to ensure the public doesn't buy into their message."

Logging is an especially explosive topic here, since it is the basis of the area's economy.

But activists are planning demonstrations about issues ranging from protection of the oceans to women's poverty.

"I'm not worried about it," said Games Society President George Heller. "They have every right to demonstrate, but they can do it without interfering."

Even Queen Elizabeth II's appearance at the opening ceremonies on Thursday is an opportunity for protesters, coming amid a groundswell of Canadian opposition to the monarch.

A recent poll showed a majority of Canadians favour severing ties with the British royal family.

The very nature of the Commonwealth, the legacy of British colonialism, is enough to inspire some protesters.

"We're against oppression and colonialism is definitely a part of that," said a spokesman for the Friends of Clayaquot Sound group. "That's why we have no problem targetting the Commonwealth."

In fact, native cultures of Canada and other Commonwealth countries will be celebrated at the games.

A flotilla of dugout canoes will deliver the Queen's Baton, the symbol of the games, to Victoria harbour, and native drawings will embellish the medals.

"Everything we're doing has just ballooned recently, response is wonderful and this thing is getting huge, said Sabba Sall, communications coordinator of the native participation committee of the games.

At the Lau WelNew Cultural Village, aboriginal peoples from throughout the Commonwealth will showcase their own art, music and food.

But at least one headache was resolved last week when striking city workers agreed to submit their dispute to binding arbitration and go back to work.

City officials and organisers had started to worry that more than 3,300 competitors from 67 countries arriving for the games would be greeted by week's worth of uncollected garbage.

On Friday, that fear was laid to rest when union chief Colin Graham said: "We have visitors coming. Our house is a little bit messy. We have to tidy it up."

As well as the competitors, officials and 2,500 journalists, an additional 70,000 visitors are expected for the games.

Tourism is already the chief industry in the picturesque city, where an atmosphere of 19th century England pervades.

So far ticket sales to actual sports events have been slow, but organisers say they have covered their costs.

Lorne Whyte, chief executive of Victoria's tourist board, said the games were expected to produce nearly 50 million Canadian dollars ($36 million) in increased tourism revenues this year.

The worldwide television audience could reach 300 million, and in Canada itself television coverage has received a boost from the major league baseball strike.

The lack of baseball games means Canadian TV will air six extra hours of games action.

In competition, Australia is widely expected to head the charge for gold, led by a powerful swimming squad. Canada is hoping the home advantage will boost their tally.

South Africa returns to the Commonwealth fold after an absence of 36 years. They last competed in the 1958 games in Wales.

Hong Kong will be bidding farewell to the games. The British colony reverts to China after 1997.

Coach has work cut out with pistol prodigy

VICTORIA, Canada (AFP) — Indian shooting coach Sunny, Thomas is busy performing a delicate balancing act with pistol prodigy Jaspal Rana, his chief medal hope at the Commonwealth Games.

Thomas is trying to ensure that Rana stays focused on winning a title while keeping the pressure of sky-high home expectations from affecting the teenager, who is taking part in three shooting events here.

"I have been keeping a close watch on him since we came here almost a week ago from Italy," Thomas, 52, a former national shooting champion, said Monday.

"I have been trying to keep him in good humour, joking with him, trying to get him to relax after the training sessions," he said. "I want him to be in the best mental and physical condition when the competition starts."

"His nature is basically not that of an introvert and I don't want him to start brooding and get himself down."

Thomas, who is on a sabbatical from his career as a teacher of English literature, has been busy playing nursemaid to Rana since he shot to fame with a junior gold medal at the world championships in Milan, Italy, last month.

The 18-year-old was immediately touted as a sporting idol on par with India's popular cricketers and applauded as a potential champion in Victoria and the Asian Games in Hiroshima next September.

"My main job has been to keep him away from people, to see that such adulation does not get to his head," Thomas said. "I begged the press not to put pressure on him. So much pressure is not good for someone so young."

Rana, a sophomore at New Delhi's St. Stephen's College, relaxes by playing patience with a set of cards at the athletes' village when he is not practising on the shooting range.

Rana, who will be taking part in the free pistol, air pistol and centre-fire pistol events, said he is trying to shove any psychological pressure to the back of his mind.

"If you let pressure affect you, you can't shoot," Rana said at Heal's Range, the shooting venue where competition gets underway Friday.

Rana's interest in shooting began when he watched his father N.S. Rana, a former commando trainer for the prime minister's Special Protection Group, at work with 9mm carbines.

His first brush with limelight came in 1987, when he won a silver medal at the Delhi state championships.

At the last national championships, he won five gold medals. In recent shooting trials he trounced veteran Ashok Pandit, who is here to defend the Commonwealth Games title he won in the centre-fire pistol in 1990.

Pandit, 40, who has a construction business in Bombay, also helped India win a team bronze in Auckland and is determined that any medal Rana wins here will not be at his expense.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nigerian sent home for steroids use

VICTORIA, Canada (AFP) — Nigerian sprinter Udeme Ekpenyong was sent home when drugs believed to be steroids were found in his luggage as he tried to enter Canada, a Nigerian Commonwealth Games team official confirmed Monday. "A Nigerian athlete to the 15th Commonwealth Games, Udeme Ekpenyong, was discovered to have possessed some drugs believed to be steroids which were found to be unlawful in Canada," a Nigerian team statement said. "The athlete was consequently sent back on the same plane." According to a team spokesman Ekpenyong was to have run the 4x400m relay. Games spokeswoman Amy Hart said she had no further information on the incident "because really he never officially became our responsibility." A Canada Customs official confirmed that one member of the Nigerian delegation was turned back, but he said regulations prevented him from discussing the case further.

Spurs to start premiership even

LONDON (AP) — Tottenham will start the English soccer season level with the rest of the premier league this weekend, despite having six points deducted from its total. The football association announced Monday that the six points it docked the club over financial irregularities will come off its total at the end of the season, so it doesn't have to face a negative total at the start. "We have decided to deduct the six points from Spurs at the end of the season," Premier League Chief Executive Rick Parry said. "We feel that that is the best way to handle the situation." If Spurs win at Sheffield Wednesday in the opening game of the season on Saturday, they will get the three points, like every other winning team. The north London club was originally deducted 12 points from the start of the 1994-95 season by the FA after being found guilty of making irregular payments to players several years ago. That total was reduced to six on appeal, which will be removed from its total after the final Saturday of the season next May.

U.S. Olympic Commitee searches for director

ATLANTA (AP) — The U.S. Olympic Committee's search for a successor to Executive Director Harvey Schiller will be lenghty, the man likely to be an interim replacement said Monday. John Krismky Jr., the USOC's chief marketing official, is expected to be installed this week to lead the committee while a permanent replacement is sought. Schiller announced last month that he is resigning to become president of Turner Broadcasting System Inc.'s Sports Division. Krimsky said he spent the weekend with USOC President Leroy Walker at the pan African-USA track and field meet. He said an agreement they reached will be announced Tuesday, but he would not say if it includes him taking the interim job. "I have every indication from Dr. Walker that we will be moving to an interim position and he will be establishing the criteria for the search committee that he has under advisement for some time," said Krimsky, currently USOC deputy secretary general. "I would expect, .. irrespective of who takes the interim position, the search for the new executive director of the USOC is going to take some substantial period of time. We want to give a very complete opportunity for those who may be interested in the position to come forward and be considered." Though Schiller's departure comes with the 1996 summer games in Atlanta less than two years away, the change at the USOC should not cause any disruption, said A.D. Frazier, chief operating officer at the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

World's former strongest man dies

VIDALIA, GA. (AP) — Paul Anderson, once recognised as the strongest man in the world, died Monday at a Vidalia Hospital after a long struggle with kidney failure and arthritis. He was 61. Anderson set nine world records and 18 American records in weightlifting in the 1950s. He won a gold medal in the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne, Australia, and set three Olympic records. He is the last American heavyweight to win an Olympic gold medal.

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European championships searching for identity

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — There was a time when the European Championships was a major track and field meet and Europeans dominated the races and field events. The Olympics were held every four years and there were no world championships.

Now, the world championships are held every two years and American sprinters and jumpers and African distance runners hold most of the world records.

The European .. meet is rapidly being outshone by meets offering money rather than prestige. Even the world championships offered a car to the winners in 1993 and will repeat the gift-giving in Goteborg, Sweden, in 1995.

In this year's European meet, only a few world class marks were produced.

Slow races dominated Sunday's finals.

Russia's Ludmila Rogachova won the slowest 1,500-final in European championships' history with 4 minutes 18.93 seconds.

The women's 1,500 runners looked like they were setting out for a marathon rather than the blue-ribbon race. Fans at the soldout Olympic stadium jeered the slow-paced runners during the first laps.

"What a race first I thought that we're walkers," said Rogachova.

The women weren't alone with slow times on the final day.

In the men's 5,000-metre final, Olympic champion Dieter Baumann's winning time of 13:36.93 was almost 40 seconds off the world record.

The 800-metres went to Italian Andrea Benevenuti in 1:46.12, almost three seconds slower than the season's best.

Earlier in the week, world champions such as Linford Christie and Colin Jackson produced good but not great efforts with an eye on more lucrative meets, like the Weltklasse Grand Prix meet in Zurich on Wednesday.

Perhaps the best individual effort was the 6.00-metre jump by Rodion Gataullin of Russia in the pole vault. Only he and Sergei Bubka have gone higher.

However Bubka of Ukraine, who recently set his 17th.. outdoor record, bypassed the meet preferring to save himself the embarrassment of possibly losing in a stadium noted for swirling winds.

The European meet showed the balance of power shifting. With the breakup of Soviet Union, more former republics are getting a chance to offer individuals experience on the world scene.

Many are taking advantage of it.

Russia was the top medal winner with 25, including 10 golds, at the last European championships, the Soviet Union had 21, with six golds.

Another former Soviet republic, Ukraine, produced three individual winners and swept the top three positions in the men's shot put and had the women's winner in that event, too.

Belarus had a few performance including Sunday's discuss winner Vladmir Dubrovschik. It missed another gold when heavily favoured Eduard Hamalalinen crashed in the hurdles while he had a big lead in the decathlon.

But Hamalalinen has a potential big payday with a showdown next month in Talence, France, when he meets American Dan O'Brien with a world record in the balance.

Slovenia, from the former Yugoslavia, had its first winner with Britta Bilac in the women's high jump.

On Sunday, Spain took the top three positions in the Marathon with Martin Fiz winning, Spain earlier went 1-2-6 in the 1,500 and won the 10,000.

Portuguese women won the marathon and had three of the top seven in the 10,000.

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CONCORD '2'
Tom Hanks — in Philadelphia
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From Aug. 24 the political play "Sahra Kamonneyeh"

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Daily at 8:30 p.m.
The theatre is closed on Tuesdays

NEWS IN BRIEF

King Hussein to visit France, Germany

AMMAN (AFP) — King Hussein is to visit France and Germany later this month. The King, who last visited France in July 1993 and Germany in March 1992, begins his trip on Aug. 26.

Adwan meets Israeli counterpart today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan will meet today with his Israeli counterpart Uzi Baram at the Israeli side of the Dead Sea, informed sources said yesterday. The ministers will discuss tourism in peace time and potential cooperation between the two countries. The meeting, which comes after Mr. Baram invited Dr. Adwan one week ago, will be the first between a Jordanian and an Israeli minister.

Japan's crown prince to tour Middle East

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako are to tour the Middle East in early November and again in late January next year, a news report said Tuesday. In November, the couple is likely to visit Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, to be followed by trips to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan in January, Jiji Press quoted government sources as saying. The Middle Eastern tour will be the royal couple's first trip abroad together since their marriage in June last year. The news agency said a different itinerary will be set for Princess Masako, a former career diplomat, because of religious restrictions that limit women's participation in formal ceremonies. The crown prince had planned to visit the Middle East in February 1991, but postponed the travel because of the eruption of the Gulf war. He tried to make the trip in January in 1993, but it was called off again due to a tension between Iraq and the United States.

Dubai official denies he will visit Israel

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Sheikh Hasher Al Maktoum, director of information for the emirate of Dubai, Tuesday denied an Israeli report that he plans to visit the Jewish state. "I was astonished to hear this news," Sheikh Hasher, a member of Dubai's ruling Al Maktoum family, said in a fax sent to the Associated Press in Bahrain by the sheikh's representatives in London, where he is currently visiting. "The story ... alleging that I have been in contact with the Israelis is untrue. I have not been in touch with them over any matter at all," he added. Eli Danon, spokesman for Israel's transport ministry, announced Sunday that Sheikh Hasher will visit Israel soon, becoming the first official from any Gulf state to do so. Mr. Danon said Sheikh Hasher will be the guest of transport minister Yisrael Kessar, but gave no date for the reported visit. Mr. Danon also said Sheikh Hasher ionitiated the idea in a letter to Mr. Danon also said Sheikh Hasher initiated the idea in a letter to an Arab-Israeli legislator, and was interested in representing El Al, Israel's national airline, in the Gulf as he owns a travel Agency in Dubai. In the statement, Sheikh Hasher said that inter-state relationships are decided by governments "and not by a government employee like me."

Israel refuses to extradite former general

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has informed the United States that it will not extradite a former air force officer accused of accepting millions of dollars in kickbacks from American firms, officials said Tuesday. Justice ministry spokeswoman Etty Eshed said the United States had expressed an interest in the extradition of Rami Dotan, a former brigadier general sentenced to 13 years in jail in 1991. "We have told them, before they submitted any formal extradition request, that we would not comply because he was an Israeli citizen when the crimes were carried out," she said. Gen. Dotan, who is believed to have amassed some $10 million in bribes on defence equipment purchases, is the highest-ranking Israeli officer to be convicted of financial crimes. The Israel-U.S. extradition treaty does not include the crimes charged against Mr. Dotan, including money laundering, conspiracy, mail and wire fraud plus making false statements.

Bhutto holds talks with Emir of Qatar

DOHA (AFP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held talks here on Tuesday with energy issues topping the agenda since Islamabad is a large consumer of Qatari oil and petrochemicals, the official agency QNA said. Ms. Bhutto met with Emir Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Khalifa to discuss two-way cooperation as well as the Middle East peace process, the situation in the Gulf and in Pakistan and ways of boosting economic cooperation. Qatar exported $80.3 million worth of oil and petrochemicals to Pakistan in 1992 and imported $13.7 million of products in return. Tens of thousands of Pakistani expatriates work in Qatar and other oil-rich Gulf monarchies. Ms. Bhutto arrived Monday on a three-day visit accompanied by the foreign and labour ministers. Pakistani officials said she would return directly to Pakistan after leaving Qatar without visiting other Gulf countries, as Islamabad had previously announced.

Japan may send troops to Golan

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan is considering posting troops to the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights as part of a U.N. peace-keeping force, and may also send personnel to join U.N. operations in Rwanda, officials said Tuesday. If the move is approved, Tokyo will send an advance party to the troubled central African nation, a foreign ministry spokesman said. The International Peace Cooperation headquarters at the prime minister's office told AFP it was holding talks with the United Nations and Canada over the possibility of sending Japanese troops to the Golan to relieve the Canadian force there. In June the government of then prime minister Tsutomu Hata decided to dispatch a delegation to Canada to discuss such a move, the spokesman said. The Japanese news agency Jiji Press said Japan was ready to send a government team to the Golan Heights before the end of the month to undertake a detailed study ahead of any troop deployment. The move to dispatch troops comes after an informal U.N. request to the Japanese government last May to relieve the Canadian soldiers taking part in the U.N. disengagement Observer Force on the Golan.

Khartoum issues flood warning

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government is issuing warnings alerting residents along the White Nile and Blue Nile to possible flooding as severe as 1988 floods that caused more than $300 million in damage. A statement by the Irrigation Ministry broadcast Monday on state radio said the Blue Nile at the Ethiopian border had risen above 12.5 metres, the level it reached in 1988 causing the worst flooding in four decades. About 120 people died of drowning or malaria resulting from the floods in August 1988. Estimates of damage to agriculture ranged from the official figure of $364 million to more than $1 billion. Within the past week, hundreds of families have been driven from their homes and at least eight people were killed from flooding as a result of heavy rains around Khartoum and in the western provinces of Kordofan and Darfur. Monday's announcement asked residents to be ready for orders from special operations offices set up along the river to help protect lives and property from flooding. The warning covered river areas from southern Sudan to Khartoum, where the White and Blue Niles merge, and to Dongola in the northern province.

DUAL-USE: Two men make use of refrigerators that washed out of nearby residences in Kaugshan, southern Taiwan, to cross the street flooded with rain water. The floods, the worst in years, caused damages estimated at more than $150 million and claimed 14 lives (AFP photo)

Iran recalls Argentina envoy, may file lawsuit

NICOSIA (AP) — Amid a mounting diplomatic row, Iran said Tuesday it will launch legal proceeding against Argentine officials for implicating four Iranian diplomats in a Buenos Aires bombing that killed 95 people and wounded 200.

State-run Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said in a commentary that Iranian officials were "determined to appeal to international judicial organisations to follow up the accusations brought against the Iranian citizens."

The move came the day after the Tehran regime recalled its ambassador in Buenos Aires, Hadi Soleiman Pour, for consultations.

On Monday, the radio quoted an "informed source" at the Foreign Ministry in Tehran as saying the ambassador was called home following "the spread of certain baseless allegations and propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran and our country's officials and diplomats, by some of Argentine media and organisations."

The radio indicated Tuesday that the envoy's return was linked to the plan to institute legal proceedings against Argentina.

The radio said Tehran intended to bring Argentine Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano to task for ordering four Iranians held for anestioning in the July 18 bombing of a Jewish centre in the Argentine capital.

Mr. Galeano also named three employees of the Iranian embassy in Buenos Aires as suspects.

Among the four ordered detained were an Iranian legislators and three former employees of the Iranian embassy in Buenos Aires.

Iran says all four are currently in Tehran, and that they had last been in Argentina between nine months to six years ago.

The head of Iran's judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, said Monday that four Iranian diplomats named by Mr. Galeano will sue Argentina for defamation.

The recall by the Tehran regime cranked up the diplomatic imbroglio over he bombing another notch. Argentina withdrew its ambassador in Tehran, Mario Quadri del Castillo, for consultations July 28.

U.S. and Israeli officials have accused the Iran-backed Hizbollah of Lebanon of carrying out the attack, in which more than 200 people were wounded.

Tehran has denied involvement and has mounted a world-wide push to protest its innocence and to discredit Iranian defector Manouchehr Motamer, whose testimony implicating Iran formed the basis of Mr. Galeano's indictments.

"Altogether despite an official request by the Islamic Republic of Iran, no evidence or document has been put forward by Argentine officials," the Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying.

"But different Argentine circles have continued to repeat the based sources," the radio quoted him as saying.

Veneznela expelled Iran's ambassador in Caracas July 20 after the Iranian embassy there was linked to an attempt to kidnap Mr. Motamer, who fled to that country with his family earlier this year from Iran.

Papal nuncio presents credentials to Weizman

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Vatican's first envoy to the Jewish state presented his credentials Tuesday to the Israeli President, who chided him for the long delay in establishing ties.

Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, 68, who holds the title of papal nuncio, which is equivalent to ambassador, took up his post following the establishment of diplomatic ties last Dec. 30.

"I think that the Pope, the Vatican, have realised it's high time to talk to the state of Israel and talk to the Jews through the state of Israel. It's a little bit late, but better late than never," president Weizman said at the official credentials ceremony.

Israel's envoy to the Vatican, Shmuel Hadas, met with Pope John Paul II earlier this year. Foreign ministry officials said he was expected to present his credentials this fall.

The Vatican diplomat was born in Turin, Italy, in 1925 and was ordained a priest in 1954.

He has served as apostolic delegate in Jerusalem since April 1990.

In addition to becoming an ambassador to Israel, the prelate is the Vatican representative to Cyprus as well as to the Palestinians both under self-rule and under Israeli occupation.

After refusing for years to recognise the Jewish state, the Vatican began moving to establish relations after the start of the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace process in 1991.

The Vatican ambassador has said in the past that the Holy See hopes "to assist in facilitating both directly and indirectly in the peace process."

The Vatican, long active in international peace efforts, hopes to play a role in resolving Middle East tension. It also has an interest in who controls the Christian holy site in Jerusalem.

The new ties raised concern among other Christian denominations.

Serb military calls for attacks to kill peace plan

BELGRADE (AFP) — Bosnian Serb army chief of staff General Milan Gvero on Tuesday called on Serb separatists to fight an international peace plan for Bosnia because it deprives Serbs of their rights.

"A resolute and just struggle is the only logical response" to the peace plan which "deprives Serbs of their rights," Gen. Gvero said in a statement on Bosnian Serb television, carried Tuesday by the Belgrade newspaper Borba.

If Serbs accepted the blueprint, territories they hold would have to be returned, which would lead to an "easy breakup" of the self-styled Serb republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Gen. Gvero's stand is in line with statements by the separatist Serb political leadership.

Momcil Krajisnik, speaker of the Serbs' self-styled parliament, said Tuesday the commander of the Bosnian Serb forces, Gen. Ratko Mladic, had voiced clear support for the Serb leadership, Beta news agency here reported.

Statements by Gen. Gvero and Mr. Krajisnik follow press reports that Gen. Mladic had so far failed to take a public stand on the peace plan submitted by an international contact group.

Under the peace plan the Serbs who now control 70 per cent of Bosnia-Herzegovina would be given 49 per cent, with the Muslim-Croat federation getting the remainder.

The Serb assembly will meet Thursday to discuss latest developments and name a new "government" two weeks after Belgrade — under a U.N. embargo for its support for the Bosnian Serbs

(Continued on page 3)

Prince Hassan launches Institute of Diplomacy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will head the newly established Jordanian Institute of Diplomacy as chairman of the board.

The Crown Prince has appointed Mazen Armouti president of the institute. Dr. Armouti will retain his job as advisor at the office of the Crown Prince.

The board of directors comprises the ministers of foreign affairs, information, and planning as well as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a university president, the secretary-general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the president of the institute in addition to independent specialists.

The institute's regulations have been approved by the Council of Ministers.

The institute was launched by Crown Prince Hassan to fill the need for an institutional framework that will systematically upgrade the performance and effectiveness of Jordanian diplomats and other personnel involved in international relations and external communication.

Mazen Armouti

The institute will also conduct studies and research; collect and publish relevant literature, data and information; organise seminars to increase awareness and knowledge of international developments and events and their impact on Jordan.

The institute will establish cooperative arrangements with Jordanian and foreign universities and institutes and maintain exchange programmes as well as data links with international institutions.

Iraq helping U.N. over border incident

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said on Tuesday it was cooperating with the United Nations observer mission to capture assailants who attacked a U.N. patrol on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

"Following the attack on the patrol on Aug. 12 the Iraqi authorities immediately took swift measures to pursue those responsible for the crime and capture them," the official daily Al Jumhouriyah said, quoting a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

"The Iraqi liaison body with UNIKOM (United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission) has made continuous contacts with the UNIKOM leader to genuinely handle and contain the incident. Iraq confirms Iraqi concern in cooperation with UNIKOM to maintain peace and security in the region," the spokesman said.

A Bangladeshi officer was shot dead and two soldiers were wounded in the ambush on Friday night on the Iraqi side of the border. Baghdad blamed smugglers for the attack.

U.N. officials are still investigating and have not ruled out the possibility that criminals might be to blame.

The spokesman said the incident should not be exploited for political ends.

"Iraq reiterates once more its refusal of any attempt by other known parties (a reference to Kuwait and the United States) to use this regrettable incident for their dubious and disgraceful political ends," he said.

Baghdad's pledge to cooperate with the U.N. for peace in the area underlines Iraq's willingness to solve its border dispute with Kuwait, which it invaded in 1990.

The U.N. imposed an embargo on Baghdad to punish it for the invasion. Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty within the new borders is crucial for the easing of the embargo.

Iraq said it recognised Kuwait within the old borders and senior Iraqi officials have hinted that they would accept the newly U.N.-demarcated frontier if given a pledge the stringent trade sanctions will either be eased or lifted.

U.N. diplomats said Monday Iraq had begun lobbying members of the U.N. Security Council hoping to secure a firm commitment to lift the U.N. embargo on oil sales by early next year.

Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun met in recent days with his counterparts from Russia, Britain, France, China and New Zealand ahead of the council's next review of the Gulf war sanctions expected about Sept. 15, the Western diplomats said.

Mr. Hamdoun told the other ambassadors that Baghdad was seriously considering recognising its border with Kuwait, a move urged by the international community, the diplomats said.

But they quoted the Iraqi envoy as saying that his government was hesitating to make such a concession without a formal commitment by the Security Council to lift the embargo on sales of its oil by the first quarter of 1995.

Security Council Resolution 687 provides for a lifting of the embargo once Iraq fully complies with U.N. demands to eliminate its capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Baghdad, hoping to end the embargo that suffocated its economy for four years, has been cooperating in recent months with the special U.N. committee in charge of Iraqi disarmament.

The upcoming sanctions review at the United Nations is considered a key test for the Iraqis since in September the U.N. sanctions committee will be able to launch a long-term programme to monitor Baghdad's military capabilities.

U.N. appeals for $22m aid for Yemen

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations on Tuesday issued an appeal for $22 million in aid for Yemen to meet urgent food and sanitation needs and help clear the country of mines after the two-month-long civil war.

The appeal, launched in Sanaa, New York and Geneva, said $2.75 million were needed to cover the immediate needs of 375,000 people displaced by the war.

The war in Yemen, which started on May 4, ended when loyalist government forces crushed a separatist breakaway state in the south and seized its declared capital Aden on July 7.

U.N. spokesman Wajih Friji said in Sanaa the aid would be used to cover six months of urgent health and food needs, restoration of water supplies and sewerage, and to set up a de-mining database with information on numbers, types and locations of land mines.

The amount does not cover the cost of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged by the war.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has estimated his country's war losses at $7.5 billion.

A U.N. inter-agency mission, which left Yemen on July 30 after touring southern provinces, quoted the governor of Shabwa as saying 23,000 mines were laid in residential districts and areas considered vital by the military.

Mr. Friji said this month that 110,000 Yemenis were unable to go home or work because of mines planted during the war.

"As a result of civil hostilities, an estimated 375,000 persons have suffered from the combined effects of temporary displacement, destruction of vital infrastructure, lack of food, soaring prices for basic commodities and limited water supply," said the U.N. appeal, a copy of which was sent to the Jordan Times.

"Despite the cessation of hostilities, the presence of land mines continues to threaten the lives and livelihood of civilians and is hampering efforts to restore vital water and electricity supplies to Aden and Abyan, areas where some of the worst effects of the crisis were registered. Health, water and sanitation, food aid and agriculture, education, children in especially difficult circumstances and demining are the technical sectors for which international assistance is urgently requested.

"While the combined effects of steady economic decline and the recent crisis have created critical needs over the medium and long term periods, this appeal focuses on the most urgent requirements for 375,000 persons through February 1995. Taking into account relief assistance already provided by the government and relief organisations, emergency programme proposals put forth in the appeal total US$21,715,240," it said.

Even before the recent civil conflict, the economy of the Republic of Yemen was in a precarious state. With a per capita GNP of $520, it was classified as a least developed country.

The adult literacy rate is estimated at 39 per cent among a population which is 82 per cent rural consisting of subsistance farmers, nomadic herders and fishers. Under five mortality rate is estimated at 177 per 1,000 live births, the third highest in the Arab region. Diarrhoeal disease, acute respiratory infections, perinatal complications and immune-preventable diseases are the leading killers, particularly among children. Malaria is endemic.

It is against this background that the recent conflict has had a devastating effect on an approximate number of 375,000 people who have suffered temporary displacement, lack of food, soaring prices for basic commodities, and limited water supply. The already weak national infrastructure was severely damaged, thus further reducing the capacity of the government to respond to the needs of its citizens.

The armed conflict aggravated the underlying causes of mortality and morbidity among children and women who are particularly at risk.

The fragile household food

(Continued on page 7)

COLUMN

Giant turtles being abused at Malaysia sanctuary

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Workers entrusted with protecting rare giant leatherback turtles at a Malaysian government-run sanctuary have abusing the creatures and eating their eggs, a local newspaper reported Monday. Guards at the sanctuary in northeastern Terengganu state were seen eating turtle eggs in front of tourists, defying a ban on the sale and consumption of such eggs, The Star said. The Rantau Abang sanctuary for nesting leatherbacks was set up in 1988 on a 13-kilometre (8.1-mile) stretch of palm-fringed beach to woo the migratory turtles, whose numbers have dwindled due to man's presence near their habitat. Guards collected hatchlings used for research and observation at the sanctuary to show visitors how the flippered leatherbacks make their way to the sea, in return for money, the newspaper quoted visitors as saying. "Visitors are allowed to take photographs and shine torchlights as the baby turtles struggle to the shoreline. But before they touch water, they are caught and returned to the enclosure until the next performance," a visitor said. The visitor said that the workers would then step on the baby turtles' fins to stop them from returning to sea. Some of the turtles at the sanctuary were also kept in small containers of dirty water, said a visitor. "One turtle's nose appeared to be deformed as a result of hitting against the wall of the container." The leatherback is the world's largest turtle, growing to a maximum of two metres (6.6 feet) in length, and is known to migrate at least 6,000 kilometres in the open seas. Their numbers along the Terengganu coast have dropped from the 2,000 recorded 30 years ago to about 20 in 1991, officials said.

First condom for women available

NEW YORK (AP) — The female condom goes on sale for the first time this month at a drugstore counters across the United States in a modest white box, with pages of instructions and 11 diagrams. The manufacturer, Wisconsin Pharmacal Co. of Jackson, Wisconsin, plans a $4 million ad campaign this year to sell the birth control device that looks like a large male condom with soft plastic rings on either end. The company emphasises the condom's role in preventing sexually transmitted diseases as well as pregnancy. Mary Ann Leeper, chief executive of Wisconsin's Female Health Division, hopes one million women will use the product within a year, that projection may be optimistic based on its sluggish reception in family planning clinics here and in Britain, where they have been available in drugstores for several years. "They're not terribly easy to use and I think there's a need for greater education if they're going to be promoted," said Helen Axby, director of the Marie Stores Health Clinics, Britain's version of planned parenthood. Instructions required by the Food and Drug Administration run to two double-spaced typewritten pages and include 11 diagrams. The cost is about $2.75 each, compared with about $1 for a male condom.

Keith Haring estate sues to ban counterfeit copies

NEW YORK (R) — The estate of Keith Haring filed a copyright infringement suit against a Hawaiian manufacturer for allegedly selling counterfeit copies of the late artist's contemporary jewellery. The suit filed in Manhattan Federal Court seeks an order stopping the sale of the articles as well as about $250,000 in damages. It alleges that Acme Studios Inc of Hawaii and others cheated the Haring estate over the last two years by selling counterfeit jewellery that closely resembles the artist's copyrighted works. The counterfeiting operation is in direct competition with the estate, which runs a Manhattan retail store and mail order service to sell Haring's artwork and jewellery, the suit alleged.